

Children's Message for May 16, 2021

Today I'm going to tell you a story. A lot of stories start with 4 words. Do you know them? *Once* what's next? *upon a time*

Can you think of a story that starts with those words?

Once upon a time there was a little girl. She was wearing a red coat with a red hood over her head. – Do you know the name of this little girl?

She walked through the woods carrying a fresh loaf of bread to her grandma. When she got to her grandma's house—do you know what happened? (There was a *wolf* wearing her grandma's nightgown.)

Do you think that's a true story?

How about *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No-Good, Very Bad Day*. Do you know that story? Have you ever had a day like that?

Now I'm going to tell you a TRUE story: Once upon a time, there was God. There was nothing else, there wasn't even a "whole wide world." Only God. He decided to make a place where fish and birds and animals and plants and people could live. The first thing he created was LIGHT: **God said, "Let there be light!" And there was light.**

That story continues for a long, long time. In fact, it's still going on! Can you think of some important people who have been in God's world?

The most important person of all is JESUS! Jesus told his friends, "I AM the LIGHT of the world."

Why do you think we need the LIGHT of Jesus? (to show us the difference between "good" and "wicked"; to shine in our hearts and lives when things are scary or dark or lonely)

Let's thank Jesus for being the light in our world and our darkness.