

Optional Pastor's sermon

CALLLED TO BE DIFFERENT
2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

NAD CHILDREN'S
SABBATH

outline

Hi Pastor! Thank you for showing your church family the importance of involving children in the church service. The following sermon is just an option. Please work with your Children's Ministry Coordinator to see where you can fit the different pieces of the Children's Sabbath material into your sermon.

Intro Statement

We live in a world where everyone wants to be different than everybody else but in reality, everyone is doing the same thing. As His children we are called to be different than what the world expects. It doesn't mean we have to be weird different, but rather share kindness, be loving, be generous, and care for others. He has called all kids to be different! In order for this to happen, we must become new in Christ! It means that we have to let Jesus change who we are into who He needs us to be.

Opening Text

If possible, have children prepared to read or memorize and quote many if not all of the texts.

We are called to be different in a world where everyone is the same, we must be born again! But what is that?

- John 3:1-8 (NIV) Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him. "Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.
- We cannot go back into our mommy where we came from, Jesus was talking about changing who we are not our bodies. He was talking about giving our lives to Him and being baptized because it is like being born again.
- 2 Corinthians 5:15 (NRSV) says, "And (Jesus) died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them."
- Accepting Jesus means accepting He died for us so we can be forgiven of our sins and live a life of service for others.
- Colossians 3:9 (NRSV) Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator.
- When we decide to live for Jesus what we did in the past does not matter, only what we do from then on because we have asked Jesus to change us from the inside out.
- Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed.
- 2 Corinthians 4:16-17 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.
- Romans 12:2 (NIV) Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will
- 1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.



Jesus has called you to be different! The story of Saul who later became Paul

In the Bible we hear about a man named Saul who did everything he could to stop those who followed Jesus. He saw them as the followers of Jesus as the enemies of God and put them in jail or killed them.

He was given a task by the religious leaders of his time; he was to go to Damascus and arrest these enemies of God.

This story shows us how Jesus can transform a wicked person and call them to be different and serve Him.

On his way to Damascus, Saul was struck by a blinding light that knocked him straight to the ground! He heard a voice tell him "Saul, Saul, why are you doing things against me?"

Jesus told Saul to go into the city to where he would be told what he should do. Saul got up but could not see where he was going so his helpers had to help him.

Jesus let a man named Ananias that Saul would visit him. But Ananias was afraid because he had heard all the things Saul had done to those who followed Jesus.

Ananias obeyed Jesus so he found Saul and laid his hands on him. Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit and something like scales fell from his eyes, and he was able to see. Then Ananias baptized Saul and was transformed, and his new name became Paul.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says "If anyone belongs to Christ, then he is made new. The old things have gone; everything is made new!"

You see Jesus has called you to be different! To change who you are and become new in Jesus! God has promised that he will give each on a new heart when we give it to Him.

Illustration to bring the message home

You will need these supplies:

Clear 1 liter bottle, 2 cup measuring cup, Hydrogen peroxide, orange dish soap or any dish soap, warm water, dry yeast, food coloring (optional).

Closing

Mix the hydrogen peroxide and dish soap in the bottle, mix the warm water and dry yeast in the measuring cup.

What happens when we decide to follow Jesus? When we give our heart to Him and decide to give our hearts to him for the rest of our life. What happens on the inside? I have some something cool to show you. (Pour the measuring liquid into the clear 1-liter bottle). Let's see what happens when we pour this into the bottle. This is like when the holy spirit comes into our life, there is a big reaction that is going on behind the scenes that we don't see it sometimes. But all of a sudden it comes pouring out of us. Jesus comes into our lives, and He is doing things! Sometimes we can't see it sometimes we can, but it suddenly starts coming out. He changes us from the inside out! There are things that come out of your life that others get to see life the fruit of the spirit that Galatians talks about. This is like what the Holy Spirit does when he comes into our lives just overflows with the things that He brings. Jesus changes us from the inside out. Boys and girls, you may have decided to already give your life to Jesus a long time ago. But you may think there are things in my life that need to be changed and I need Jesus to change my heart. You can always ask Him to change what is not great and you need Him to change your heart. Let me pray for you!