

Worship Date: May 2, 2010

Worship Theme: Minister through Love

Scripture Reference: John 13:31-35

Materials: Package of "Dum Dums" suckers or any other brand of suckers with a variety of flavors.

This morning I have a bag of "Dum-dums." As you can see, "Dum-dums" come in many different flavors. There are lemon, cherry, grape, watermelon, orange, and butterscotch. I sometimes give "Dum-dums" to children as treats. One thing I have noticed is that when I allow the children to choose the flavor they want, some children are very picky about which flavor they choose. It seems I always wind up with all of the butterscotch left when all of the other flavors are gone. Children seldom choose the butterscotch suckers.

I don't know why the children don't like butterscotch. I guess butterscotch is a little bit different. Maybe it isn't quite as sweet as grape or cherry, or some of the other flavors, or maybe they just don't like the color of the paper wrapper. Do you know what I do with the leftover butterscotch suckers? I eat them myself, because I love all the flavors!

These flavors remind me of children. Have you ever noticed that when children play games, sometimes there are children who are always the last to be chosen? Maybe they are just a little bit different or maybe they aren't as good at the game or maybe their skin is a different color and the other children just won't choose them.

We all need to remember that Jesus loves ALL the children and he said that you and I should do the same. We need to be examples to our friends and not leave anyone out because they are different.

Jesus told his disciples, "I will be with you only a little while longer. Then you will look for me, but you won't find me because you cannot go where I am going. I give you a new commandment. You must love each other just as I have loved you. If you love each other, everyone will know that you are my disciples."

Would you like for people to look at the way you live and know that you are a follower of Jesus? Well, then obey his command, "Love one another as I have loved you." Practice this love every day of your life through how you treat others.

Dear Lord, help us to remember that you have told us to love one another just as you have loved us. Amen.