

Sunday August 19, 2018

Theme: Stories we'd like to Bury

Scripture: Matthew 16 When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. 17 Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:¹⁸ “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted because they are no more.

Sermon Title: Just One

Sermon in a Sentence: All children are valued by God. Their stories of pain should be told no matter how many are impacted.

Call to Worship

ONE: The Bible is full of stories -

ALL: Beautiful, breath-taking stories!

ONE: There are stories that teach us about grace,

ALL: And provide us examples for how to live.

ONE: The Bible also has stories -

ALL: That leave us yearning for understanding

Opening Prayer

God of love, and light, open our hearts to receive your Holy Word. Help us to remove our biases so we can see others through your image as you created us all to be. Give us the burning desire to share your message of love to children in this place and those all around the world. Bless this time together in this sacred space. This is our prayer in Jesus name .Amen

Sermon Background

The sermon is focused on the massacre of the innocents, where King Herod orders the slaughtering of baby boys. We draw our attention to the stories of those children, their families and how their story is shared in only one verse of the scripture. How do we share the story of children and families who find themselves in trauma? What makes a child's pain valid enough to be shared with the masses? How do we advocate for the innocent?

Key Words/Phrases

Innocent, advocates, worthy, equality