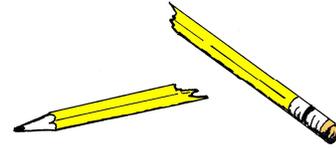


WHO BROKE MY PENCILS?

Theme: Staying connected to the Body

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 4:12b (and verse 9)

Props: A dozen or so pencils and 2 rubber bands



Today we're going to see how strong you are. (*Hand out a pencil to each child.*) Let's see if you can take that pencil and break it in half. (*Demonstrate.*)

Good job! If I need anything broken, I know who to ask!

Was it hard to break that pencil? No, not very. But what if I took a bunch of pencils and then bound them together with a couple of rubber bands, like this... (*Bind six or eight pencils together with the rubber bands.*) Would it be easier or harder to break them now? A lot harder! In fact, you might not be able to break them at all. Like the old saying goes, there's strength in numbers. The more pencils in the bundle, the stronger they are.

The Bible says something similar to that. In Ecclesiastes 4:12 it says, "A threefold cord is not quickly broken." But the Bible isn't really talking about cords – or even pencils. It's talking about people. Especially God's people. Verse 9 says, "Two are better than one...for if they fall, one will lift up his fellow."

In other words, we need to stick together as a church family because we're a lot stronger as a group than we are alone. It means coming to church every week. It means supporting each other, encouraging each other, helping each other, praying for each other – and, of course, loving each other.

So, just as those pencils are bound together with rubber bands, we need to be bound together with love.

And that's something we should pray about: Father God, just as those pencils were bound together with rubber bands, we pray that you will bind us together with cords that cannot be broken. We pray you'll bind us together with love. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Song: "Bind Us Together"