

Methodist Home for Children **Sunday**

MISSION MOMENT

Good morning and thank you for this chance to talk about **Methodist Home for Children**.

I want to start with a story in Genesis – chapter 33, verse 5, where Esau is reuniting with his brother, Jacob. It's been 20 years since Jacob deceived their father to steal Esau's birthright for himself, and Esau is coming to this meeting with reinforcements of 400 men.

When he arrives, Esau sees Jacob there with a small crowd of people around him, and he asks: *Who are these with you?*

And Jacob replies simply: They are the children God has graciously given me.

Jacob's answer could be more complicated. He could explain the details of his marriages to Leah and Rachel, the servants and their clans. But he keeps it simple: God has entrusted their care to me.

And that's our story today, too.

The families served by Methodist Home for Children are those whom God has entrusted to our care. Their stories might be messy; the details might be complicated – but it's all so simple in the context of our faith.

Entrusted to our care – **who are** these with us?

Kannon is one of them. Blonde hair, a great smile, truly a sweetheart, he was 3 years old when he entered foster care. Kannon needed parents.

Summer is one. Abused since she was 5 years old, she found ways to fight back – and then she stopped caring. By 15, she was in a youth prison. Summer needed someone to believe in her.

Jaden is one. A single mother's only child, diagnosed with a disruptive mood disorder, he was 14 when he had to leave home for his own safety. Jaden needed help controlling his emotions and his 6-foot-tall, adult-sized body.

Kannon, Summer, and Jaden are three of more than 1,600 children and families entrusted to our care last year. Today, thanks to the grace of God and the generosity of churches like this one, I can tell you that Kannon has his new family; Summer is working and living on her own; and Jaden is back at home with his mother.

These are young lives forever changed, and forever part of our family. On their behalf, we thank you for your support of Methodist Home for Children, and we ask for your prayers and gifts today so that we might continue to receive God's children into our care.