

**2024 One Great Hour of Sharing Children’s Lesson**

**Goals and Purpose**

* Children will learn about One Great Hour of Sharing and celebrate its 75 years of helping those affected by disaster, hunger and injustice.
* Children will identify themselves as repairers of the breach when they contribute what they have to help those in need.

**Supplies**

Gathering

* OGHS coloring sheet for each child (Resource page)
* pencils
* markers, colored pencils or crayons

Exploring 75

* blank paper or mural paper (optional)
* timer, stopwatch or watch/clock with a second hand (optional)
* dance music and a way to play it (optional)
* OGHS minute for mission insert (optional)

Engaging With OGHS

* OGHS game board and cards, cut up (Resource Pages)
* scissors
* small items to serve as individual game tokens
* dice (1 per game board)
* 20 sheets of 8.5-by-11-inch paper, numbered and marked with colors/letters as on the OGHS game board (optional)

More Activity Options (materials needed depend on activity choices)

* gold paint and small paintbrushes, gold glitter glue, or gold markers, glue sticks or liquid glue, photo of a kintsugi pot (for example:

<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/antique-black-gold-kintsugi-bowl-cracks-1799989951>)

* a variety of crafting materials, blindfolds
* blank sticky nametag for each child, colored markers

**Preparing**

Prepare the OGHS game by cutting up the cards to make three piles (Action, Disaster and Repair). Gather other materials needed for the game: small items to use as player tokens, and a single die. See variation below for larger groups or to turn the game into a life-size version.

Choose additional activities and collect materials.

**Gathering**

As children arrive, give them an OGHS coloring sheet (Resource Page) and invite them to color it in. Have them add a box with their name in it, and another box with the name of their church in it. This gives them 75 spaces to color in, one for each year of OGHS!

**Exploring 75** (10 minutes)

Explain that today we celebrate the 75th anniversary of a special offering —One Great Hour of Sharing. Choose from one or more of the following activities to explore the number 75.

* When I am 75 …

Invite children to imagine life when they are 75 years old and describe it in words or drawings (on individual sheets or together on a mural).

* 75 Acts of Kindness

Invite children to make a group list of 75 acts of kindness they can do in their homes, school, community, church or world.

* A Scavenger Hunt for 75 Signs of Love

Go on a brief hunt around the church or neighborhood looking for signs of God’s love and counting them. What will you find? A green and growing tree? A collection of canned goods? A group of choir members rehearsing?

* How Long is 75 Seconds? (Longer than you think!)

Invite children to guess how long 75 seconds is without looking at a watch or clock. Start a timer with the group standing, then have them each sit when they think 75 seconds is up. If there are children still standing when you call time, repeat the challenge with those children, but have them close their eyes this time. Repeat the challenge if the group wants to try again. Don’t worry about identifying a winner. End with a 75-second dance party for everyone! If you have children who have difficulty standing, modify the challenge to include everyone.

**Engaging with One Great Hour of Sharing** (10–25 minutes)

Share the following with the class, using these or your own words:

One Great Hour of Sharing helps people around the world in need. Every penny, nickel, dime, quarter and dollar given goes to help people affected by hunger, disaster and injustice. The offering began in the 1940s when one minister set a goal to raise one million dollars in one hour. It was one great hour of sharing! More churches participated the next year, and the year after that, and the year after that, and on and on, every year since. This year we celebrate that Presbyterians have given to One Great Hour of Sharing for 75 years!

Seventy-five years is a long time! How old will you be in 75 years? Imagine over the next 75 years, how many people around the world you could help just by sharing your gifts through this offering!

The One Great Hour of Sharing we collect in our church combines with the offerings collected in other churches, then it gets shared in three major ways:

* Hunger relief through the Presbyterian Hunger Program
* Disaster relief through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
* Injustice relief through Self-Development of People.

Our gifts mean we are there when people are in need — sharing, caring and serving.

There are many places in the Bible where God’s people are reminded to share our gifts to help and bless one another. Isaiah 58:10a and 12 says this:

*… if you offer your food to the hungry*

*and satisfy the needs of the afflicted …*

*Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;*

*you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;*

*you shall be called the repairer of the breach,*

*the restorer of streets to live in.*

* What do you think it means to repair a breach?
* What does it mean to restore something?
* What is something you have repaired or restored before?
* How is helping hungry people or people in need repairing or restoring something?

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Description automatically generated*(If your church is using the One Great Hour of Sharing minute for mission inserts, choose one or two of those projects to highlight or describe. If you are using the Fish Banks and/or Gracie story, you might share them now, describing how to collect money with them.)*

The OGHS Game

Play the OGHS game as a group.

How to play:

Before class, cut up the cards and make a pile of each type: Disaster, Repair and Action cards.

For a small group and/or a small room:

Display the game board and give each player something to use as a game token. Read the scenario at the top. In turn, players roll a single die, then move their token that number of spaces. If they land on one of the colored/lettered spaces, they draw the appropriate card and follow the instructions, then place that card at the bottom of its pile. Game play continues until all players get to the finish.

For a large group and/or a large enough room:

Make multiple copies of the game board and cards for smaller groups to play.

Or make your own life-size game board. Number sheets of 8.5-by-11-inch paper, marking them with the appropriate colors/letters as on the board. Place the papers in order around the room for the game board. Have the teacher or leader roll the die for each turn as children act as their own game tokens. The teacher or leader draws and reads the appropriate cards with instructions. Game play continues until all players get to the finish.

With older children:

Add a level of complexity by asking them to identify which of the three major types of repair provided by OGHS is most applicable for their Disaster or Repair cards: Hunger (repairing a lack of food); Disaster Assistance (repairing broken walls, roads, etc.); and Self-Development of People (repairing broken systems and access).

Discuss the game afterward.

* What situations described by the game have you experienced in real life?
* How did it feel when a disaster set you back? How about a repair?
* What did you learn about OGHS as you played?

**More Activity Options**

As time allows, choose from the following activities:

Kintsugi Coloring

Show the children a photo of a pot repaired with kintsugi — an ancient Japanese technique of repairing broken pottery. Rather than hiding where the piece was broken, kintsugi makes it beautiful with gold at the healed places. As they create their own kintsugi-inspired art from the OGHS Coloring sheet, talk about how OGHS helps us repair what is broken through addressing hunger (repairing a lack of food), disaster (repairing broken walls, roads, etc.), and injustice (repairing broken systems and access).

* For a simple version, invite the children to add gold on top of some of the drawn lines on their OGHS coloring sheet. They may use gold markers, glitter glue or paint.
* If you have more time, turn the coloring sheets into kintsugi-inspired artwork. Have children tear their colored sheets carefully into three to four pieces. Glue them back together onto a larger sheet of paper, leaving a little space in between each of the pieces. Use gold paper underneath to create gold-colored seams, or add gold in the spaces between with paint, markers or glitter glue.
* Check out this video for more about kintsugi: [youtu.be/zabQFbChhGM?feature=shared](https://youtu.be/zabQFbChhGM?feature=shared).
* This could also be an activity to extend the lesson at home.

Repairing the Breach

Explore the idea of restoring/repairing/rebuilding by asking children to work together to build a wall or bridge using a variety of materials available in the room.

Possible Variations:

* Give small groups only certain types of materials they may use to build. (For example: One group gets clothespins and craft sticks; another gets tape and paper, etc.). Talk about how we each can use what we have to make a difference.
* Have each child select just one piece or type of material to contribute and talk about how “if we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.”
* For older children: Blindfold the Builders who can handle the materials but not speak. They are instructed by the Helpers, who can speak but not handle the materials. Talk about how we must work together using our gifts to repair what is broken.

Repairers and Restorers

Give each child a sticky nametag and have them label themselves as “Repairers of the Breach” or “Restorers of the Streets.” They may decorate the nametags with symbols of love, sharing and caring.

**Closing**

Close with a prayer using your own words, or words like these:

*Dear God, we thank you for all the ways you love us. We thank you for the blessings we have, like food, shelter, roads and electricity. Today we especially thank you for 75 years of the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, and how so many people have been helped through the gifts and offerings of others. Help us each share what we can so we can be repairers and restorers and share your love across the world. Amen.*

*Prepared by the Rev. Julie Coffman Hester. Julie is a pastor and writer in North Carolina who has served in faith formation with all ages for 30 years. Her current ministry focuses on writing curriculum and resources, and teaching workshops on writing as a spiritual practice and writing through grief. You can find her at* [*juliehester.com*](https://juliehester.com/) *and subscribe to her writing prompts at* [*writingincompany.substack.com.*](https://writingincompany.substack.com/)