



One Great Hour of Sharing Lesson Plan Younger Children (K-Fourth Grade)

Lesson Objectives:

Children will:

- Be able to name each of the three recipients of the OGHS offerings by both its full name and its acronym.
- Understand the connection between sharing what we have with others and living into God's call to care for those in need.
- Be able to place themselves in the wider community of faith in the PC(USA) and beyond as participants in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

Materials and resources

- Nametags for everyone in the classroom that include only initials (for fun, you could try to go through the whole class addressing everyone only by their initials!).
- Tag board, markers, magazines, glue sticks and other items to create a poster for each of the three offering recipients.
- "Go Fish(bank) card game" (40 cards photocopied two-sided onto card stock and cut apart into individual cards. Have a set for every 2-4 children).

Gathering (10 minutes):

- Opening prayer: *"Loving God, it is because of you that we gather today, and it is out of your great love for us that we care for and share with others. May our time together in your name be blessed, and may each person here know that they are your beloved child. Amen."*

Thinking about Acronyms:

- ✚ On a white board, flip chart, or large sheet of paper, write some familiar acronyms--include general acronyms that they should all recognize (ex. PTSA, NFL, KFC, UPS, etc.) as well as ones specific to your community, and ones specific to your congregation.
- ✚ Ask students if they know the term that describes using initials of each word in a name or phrase as shorthand, and if not, introduce the word "acronym".
- ✚ Go through the acronyms with the students to see how quickly they can recognize them, and name what each letter in the acronym stands for.
- ✚ Encourage the group to brainstorm and add their own to your list.
- ✚ ****I wonder question: "I wonder why so many people use acronyms?"** (possible answers include: ease of remembering, so that terms or names are easier to say and/or quicker to write, maybe the letters create their own word. . .).

Acronyms used with the OGHS offering (10 minutes)

Share the acronyms specific to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, as well as more general Presbyterian Church organizational acronyms

- OGHS (One Great Hour of Sharing) pcusa.org/oghs
- SDOP (Self-Development of People) pcusa.org/sdop

- PHP (Presbyterian Hunger Program) pcusa.org/hunger
- PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) pcusa.org/pda
- PC(USA) (Presbyterian Church in the United States of America) pcusa.org
- PMA (Presbyterian Mission Agency) presbyterianmission.org
- YAV (Young Adult Volunteer Program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)) pcusa.org/yav
- OGA (the Office of the General Assembly) pcusa.org/oga

Story (10 minutes)

Read Isaiah 58: 6-12.

- Recap with children the actions that Isaiah laid out that would lead to an individual being called a “repairer of the breach” (loose bonds of injustice, free the oppressed, share bread with the hungry, bring homeless into your house, clothe the naked. . .)
- Do some of the acronyms we learned about fulfill the words from the Isaiah scripture we just read? Which ones? How?

Create (10-15 minutes)

Divide into three multi-age groups and assign each group one of the offering recipients (SDOP, PHP, PDA). The group should create a poster showing ways that their offering helps people. Posters can include words, drawings, magazine pictures, etc.

Ideally, find a high-traffic area to hang these posters in your church as a way to promote the offering. Perhaps hang each one next to one of the posters provided in the leader’s pack for this year’s OGHS offering.

Play (10-15 minutes)

- Using the prepared cards, have the students play the “Go Fish (bank)” game in the same small groups that they prepared their posters in. (If you have more than a dozen students, re-divide the students into groups of three or four)
- Have master sheets of cards and rules for each child/family so that they can take the game home to play throughout the season of Lent with their families.
- **cards can be laminated using “business card”-sized pouches

Close (10 minutes)

- Ask each group to come up with a one- to two-sentence prayer for the offering recipient highlighted in their poster.
- Invite the winner of the “Go Fish(bank)” game from each team to participate in leading a closing prayer.
 - ✚ Closing prayer: *Loving God, you call us to be repairers of the breach: people who look at the world, see the things that are broken and work together to make them better. In your church here in (CITY), may we be helpers in our community. We are thankful that, through the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, we can partner with many groups to do your work. (INSERT PRAYER FROM SDOP GROUP, FROM PHP GROUP AND FROM PDA GROUP). May we always try to help repair broken places and to share your love in our world. Amen.*

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