

2021 Curriculum

Multi-age Children's Lesson Plan (ages 5–10 with activities Pre-K might enjoy)

Guiding Scripture: “You shall be called the repairer of the breach.” (Isaiah 58:12b)

Lesson Objectives: Advocates in Training

1. Children/families will discover more about the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering as *Advocates in Training* and learn skills of Seeing, Learning, Listening and Action.
2. Children/families will explore Isaiah 58, discern how the text motivates their faithful living, and dive deep into what it means to be repairers of the breach.
3. Children/families will engage in a Call to Action by writing letters to or drawing pictures for individuals or communities helped by the OGHS Special Offering.

Resources and Supplies:

OGHS 2021 Poster

Several sheets of paper

Pen, pencil, markers or crayons

Resource 1 — Information Sheet

Resource Sheet 2 — Letter

“Fuel for Justice” coloring sheet

OGHS interactive map: <https://pcusa.org/oghsmmap>

Building materials — building blocks, Legos, sticks, pillows, etc. — anything with which you can build.

Gathering of the Advocates in Training (10 minutes)

Advocate skill — Seeing

Invite children or all people in your household to color the “Fuel for Justice” coloring sheet as an entering/gathering activity.

Once all have gathered, display the OGHS 2021 poster in a place where everyone can see it. Explain that you all will learn more about the One Great Hour of Sharing Presbyterian Special Offering and explore how you can live faithfully as Advocates in Training. Share information from Resource Sheet 1 “Information Sheet” about the OGHS.

Invite someone to read the “Because We See You” Minute for Mission. Ask:

- What do you think it means for someone to “see” you?
- What do you see in the OGHS poster?
- Will someone please read the Scripture on the poster?

Before exploring the Scripture, pray together. Invite one of the children to lead the prayer by reading this one or praying one of their own heart.

God of all creation. We look around this world and see people and communities in need and ask “Why?” Sometimes we forget to ask “How can we help?” Help us to see our neighbors in need. Open our ears to hear their stories and to learn of their needs. Give us courage to answer the call to action to love and serve. Thank you for the One Great Hour of Sharing and the opportunity to give so that we can love you and love our neighbors. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Exploration of the Scripture (10 minutes)

Advocate skill — Learning and Listening

Start your exploration using the Information Sheet to read the “A Little History” section to learn a bit about the background of the last section of Isaiah.

Invite someone in your household to read, or take turns reading, Isaiah 58. Ask:

- What jumps out to you from what you heard and why?

The Rev. Dr. James “Mickey” Efird, in his book *The Old Testament Writings: History, Literature, Interpretation* (p. 157), highlights that the primary teaching is centered around faithfulness. Ask:

- What actions by the Israelites are unfaithful?
- How do you know?
- In what ways can they be faithful?

Reread Isaiah 58:6–10

- On a piece of paper, brainstorm ways the prophet encourages God’s people (including us!) to be faithful.
- Look over the list and pick one faithful action you feel you do well and one you would like to work on a little more.
- Write or draw the faithful actions on a sticky note and place it where you will see it each day, like on your bathroom mirror. Use this as a daily reminder to practice living faithfully.

Diving Deeper (10–20 minutes)

Isaiah 58 encourages us to be *repairers of the breach*. What does it mean?

Time to get those hands busy while we learn more about one of the programs that receives funding from the OGHS!

In this activity, you will create bridges with any items you can find: building blocks; Legos; sticks; pillow; etc. Spend about eight minutes building.

Once bridges are built, ask:

- Why do we have bridges?
- What happens if someone needs to get to the other side (for work, school, to the grocery store, to the doctor, etc.) and there is no bridge, or it has been broken?

One of the OGHS programs is Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. They respond when a community has been affected by natural disasters to help take care of those who are suffering and to help rebuild the community. Ask someone to pretend to be the winds of a hurricane or tornado and break down bridge(s) you all built. Afterward, ask/say:

- Tell me what it might be like if you were the person on one side of the bridge who needed to get to work, school, grocery or doctor, but you see it has been destroyed.
- How will bridges, houses and neighborhoods ever get rebuilt after being damaged?

Time to rebuild — be repairers of the breach!

Before rebuilding, take some of the original supplies and move them away from the place you will build. These represent the supplies that many individuals and communities need but do not have access to. Do not use those supplies and ask one person to rebuild everything by themselves in three minutes. Wonder together:

1. I wonder what it feels like to build the bridge by yourself.
2. I wonder what it feels like to not have all the supplies you need.
3. I wonder how I/we can help you.

The leaders of the three programs funded by the *One Great Hour of Sharing* ask those important questions: What do you need? How can we help?

Now — *together* rebuild the bridge, bringing in more materials.

- Talk about how working together to build is similar to the OGHS offering and the three program areas helping individuals and communities in need.
- Talk about how collecting the OGHS offering and the distribution of the funds to individuals and communities in need is like this activity of working together and finding resources to build the bridge.
- Keep the built bridge(s) and share them with your church family.

Call to Action - from sorrowful sackcloth to joyful serving (eight to 10 minutes)

Advocate skill — Action

You have been discovering how to listen and to learn as an Advocate. Those are the first steps to repairing the breach. Before any action can be done, we must learn from others. By being present and listening, we will discover how the Holy Spirit is calling us into action.

Isaiah 58 is a call to action. It induces motivation to move from our mourning and sorrow over a broken community to the joy that comes with repairing the breach. It is time to take action!

Using your computer/tablet/smartphone, explore the OGHS interactive map at <https://pcusa.org/oghsmap>. Find individuals and communities NEAR YOU who have received aid from the OGHS offerings. Pick one or two that are closest to your location to explore.

Print out Resource Sheet 2 — Writing Letters

- Give each person a resource page. If you are unable to print, make your own creative letter!
- Using this resource, write a letter (or draw!) to the individuals or communities you discovered using the interactive map.

Closing (three to five minutes)

Advocate skill — Praying

Pray with and for each other. Pray for those in your community who are in need and ask how the Holy Spirit might move and equip you as an Advocate. Pray for the individuals and organizations that are highlighted in the OGHS Minutes for Mission. Say, write or draw a prayer of your own or use the one provided.

Holy One, you come to us in the form of a small, vulnerable child. You come in the form of a stranger, someone who is hungry, someone who needs a home. Open our eyes so that we see your light in each person we meet. Give us strength and courage, skills of seeing, listening, learning, action and prayer. Help us to be Advocates of Change in this world. May our offering to the One Great Hour of Sharing be a first step in ways to serve and love. Amen.

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