



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

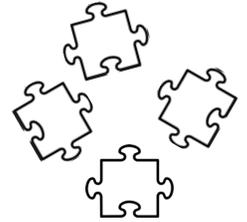
2022 Curriculum - Time with Children - Sermon

Preparation: Know local ministries that have been supported through the giving of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program and/or Self-Development of People

Resources: Puzzle pieces (different sizes, unassembled)

SAY:

Good morning, friends! If you know I love you, give me one thumb up (wait for children to respond). If you know God loves you, say, “God, I love you too!”



Did you know that God’s love is so big that God can love all of us at the same time? In fact, God can love children everywhere just like you (insert a few names of children seated). We are all connected by God’s love. Can you say that word with me? **CONNECTED** (let children repeat).

Who knows what this is? (Hold up puzzle pieces. Allow children to answer.)

Who knows what happens when we put all the pieces together? **ANSWER:** We get a whole picture (allow children to answer).

We need all of our puzzle pieces connected in order to see the whole picture. But we don’t just put them anywhere; they have to fit together piece by piece and shape by shape. Right?

My friends, this is like what Jesus is teaching us in Matthew 25. Jesus asks us to use our pieces — our clothes, our food, our drink — and even pieces of our lives to create the whole picture. Just like one puzzle piece cannot make a whole picture, one person cannot help everybody. We need everybody to help somebody. When we bring what we have and connect it, we have a whole picture of God’s love. And every piece makes a difference.

So today we all bring our offering (a piece of our allowance or money) to help somebody and this offering will help people through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Self-Development of People. All of the programs serve people and communities in need. (Like **INSERT NAME OF LOCAL MINISTRY THE CHURCH HELPS FUND.**) Whether you bring a small piece to the puzzle or a big piece or a medium-size piece, we need all the pieces to connect so we can all see the love of God. Remember how we are connected by God’s love?

Will you repeat this prayer with me?

Dear God,

Help us connect the pieces of the puzzle that belong to you, so we can see the whole picture of your love. Amen.

—Natarsha Prince Sanders is currently DEdMin student at Columbia Theological Seminary and writing fellow at Collegetown Institute, Collegetown, MN. She is the Executive Director of Centering the Sacred, a ministry that focuses on spiritual development and growth for people of all ages.



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