



2023 | CHILDREN'S LESSON

FEBRUARY 22-APRIL 9

Preparation:

- 1 Before children enter put two tables of the same height about 2 feet apart. Place chairs around each table for children to sit at except for the sides of the tables that are parallel to each other. On each table place random but different school supplies. For example, one table may have tape, pipe cleaners, markers, and rubber bands while the other table has glue, crafting sticks, pencils, and toilet paper tubes.
- 2 Copy Resource Page 1 and cut out the images of women for younger children (older children may cut out their own woman as time permits). Make sure there is a woman to color for each child.
- 3 Acquire transparency sheets (or laminating sheets) and cut them into smaller pieces (about 3 inches by 3 inches). Be sure you have thin or fine-tipped markers and a bright flashlight as well.

Gathering (10-15 minutes)

As children enter, give them a woman to color and color pencils or crayons to color their women. Not all women look alike, so there are no wrong ways to color the women. If your church has been using the minutes for mission leading up to One Great Hour of Sharing, encourage them to think of the women as Lupe, Smitha, and Paola (if you have not, do not worry about naming the women). As each child finishes coloring their woman, assign them to one of the tables with school supplies on them. Tell children that they are going to work with the supplies and the other children at their table to build a bridge between the tables that their women could (imaginatively) walk across.

Allow children to build a bridge that is stable enough for their paper women to “walk” across. They can choose to work with people from the other table, but they do not have to. Allow the children to do as much as they can without any suggestions from adult leaders.

Once children have built their bridge(s), ask the children:

- What was easy about building a bridge to the other table?
- What was hard about building the bridge to the other table?
- How did it feel when you could finally allow your women to “walk” across to the other side?

Affirm their answers and thank them for their participation and diligence.

Encountering the Word (10-15 minutes)

Give children copies of Isaiah 58:10-12. Tell children that these verses are God's instructions about how we should treat others, especially those who do not have all the money or the food that they need. Invite children to read the words silently as you read them aloud. When you finish, ask them if there are any words in the passage that they do not know. Define words that they have questions about. Be sure children understand what the phrase "repairer of the breach" means. A breach is a brokenness meaning that someone cannot get what they need to survive and feel like they matter. Repairing the breach is making a bridge between two people, specifically people who are very different (reference the activity when children came in). It could mean that we must all work to make sure that all people can feel like they have what they need to survive.

For Younger Children – Read the passage again, stopping to ask the following questions:

- When have you been hungry? Who gives you food when you are hungry?
- When do you feel God guiding you?
- God promises to make your bones strong. What do you do to make your bones strong?
- How do you take care of a garden?
- How can you be a repairer of the breach? How can you build bridges between people?

For Older Children – Put children in pairs and give each pair a piece of paper and a pen. Ask them to read the passage again and then make a list of all the ways that God wants us to help others. The list could have things on it from scripture, but also ways that they could help others today. Allow children to share their lists and praise them for their creativity and thoughtfulness. As you hear things on their list that they can do without the help of adults, be sure to point that out to them.

Responding to the Word (15-30 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following activities to respond to the scripture, as time permits.

- 1 Give each child a piece of transparency paper that has been cut into a square that is about three inches by three inches. Make fine-tipped markers available as well (permanent markers will work best). Ask younger children to draw their favorite food on the transparency. Invite older children to draw a scene in which they are doing something for someone else who needs their service. After all drawings are finished, turn out the lights in the room and hold the transparency in front of a lit flashlight. Ideally, there would be a blank wall for the image to be projected on. This should make the image grow a lot bigger than it was in the original drawing. Let each child describe their drawing for the other children. Tell them that when the passage says, "Your light shall rise in the darkness," this means that God can use our good works and make them bigger like our images. When we all share, we can make a big difference in the lives of others.
- 2 Give each child playdough of one color. Ask them to make something that is special to them out of the playdough. As children finish their sculpture, invite them to describe their sculpture to children sitting around them. In groups of 4 or 5, children should create a story and a scene with their sculptures. Let

children share their scenes with everyone in the group. Ask how allowing everyone to share their own creation makes the story better. Remind children that our lives are like the stories that they have created. When we share our resources with others, they learn and benefit from us as well.

- 3 Invite a musician from your church to teach the children the hymn “We Were Not There” written specifically for the One Great Hour of Sharing (it can be found at this link: _____[[please insert link to music](#)]. If a musician is unavailable, show children the YouTube Link “We Were Not There (We Are There) – Chris Shelton and Rory Chambers” (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9aNh_WvDxo, 4:43). Ask children what stories from the Bible they hear in the song. Also, ask if they can imagine themselves helping others as God does in the song. Allow children to listen to the song a second time, possibly singing along if they are feeling comfortable.

Closing Activity (5 minutes)

Invite children to gather in a circle. Remind them what the phrase “repairer of the breach” means. Ask them each to share one thing that they will do in the upcoming days and weeks to be a “repairer of the breach.” After all children have shared, say this prayer:

*Holy God,
we did not mess up this world,
but we want to help make this world better.
Remind us to always share when we have extra
and to get to know all people that you have created.
Amen.*

Extension Options:

When your church collects the offering for “One Great Hour of Sharing,” invite children to also bring in extra food they have around their own home to share with a local food distribution center.

Give children building blocks or Legos to use in worship. Each time they hear a story, a scripture, a line of a hymn, or a suggestion for how someone helps someone else in worship, they can *all* add a block or Lego to their creation. See how high their tower can get throughout one worship service!

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QUESTIONS?

Feel free to contact us at
800-728-7228, ext. 5047
or email special.offerings@pcusa.org
pcusa.org/oghs/resources

Resource Page 1

Before children arrive cut out these figures of women.
Have children color them as they enter the room.
Copy and cut enough figures that each child has one.

