



## 2023 | CHILDREN'S TIME FEBRUARY 22-APRIL 9

### Preparation:

Find something that is broken that you can show the children during Children's Time. It could be a broken dish or mug, a clock, or a toy that does not work anymore. It could be as simple as a bulletin that has been torn into smaller sections or an important looking piece of paper.

### Gathering:

As children gather, greet them. When all children have gathered, bring out your broken item.

#### **SAY:**

Hello Friends! I need your help with something! Would you be willing to help me with a project? (give children a moment to nod or say "yes").

#### **SHOW**

children your item and how it is broken. Say something like, "I'm so sad that this is broken!" or "I'm so upset that my paper got torn!"

#### **ASK**

Did any of you break this? (or tear this up?). Allow children to say no.

#### **SAY**

Even if you did not break it, do you have any ideas about how we might fix it? Allow time for sharing of ideas. If children do not speak say something like, "Do you have some batteries at your home I could borrow?" or "Would any of you loan me some tape to put this back together?" Allow for several suggestions or offers to help. Be sure to repeat them loudly so the whole congregation can hear the ideas shared.

#### **SAY**

In the book of Isaiah, God asks us to be a "repairer of the breach." This means that there are some things in our world that are broken, and God wants us to help repair that brokenness. There are people who do not have homes or food. There are people in our world who live through earthquakes or floods and lose a lot of what they have. Now, we may not cause any of this brokenness. None of us stole someone's home or someone's food, but God asks us to help those people who do not have as much as we have. We are "repairers of the breach" when we share our food, our money, and our time with people who have less than we do.

Today, our church is taking up a special offering. When we give money to the church today, we are giving money that will help repair those breaches. Our money will go to the Presbyterian Hunger Program that gives people food! Our money will go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance that helps people rebuild their homes after a natural disaster! Our money will go to Self-Development of People that helps people get jobs and provide what they need for themselves! God asks us to help repair the brokenness in our world, and I know that you can help and that I can help. In fact, everyone in this room can help! And when we do, we will know that we are serving God and making this world better for everyone!

Please pray with me.

*Dear God,  
I want to be someone  
Who fixes what is broken  
And who makes this world better  
For all your children.  
Amen.*

*Prepared by Rev. Doodle Harris is the Chaplain and Director of Service Learning at Hastings College in Hastings, NE. Doodle has spent the last twenty years serving as a small group facilitator, keynoter, preacher, and curriculum writer at various children's and youth conferences. She has also served as an associate pastor for Faith Formation and has contributed to the "Follow Me" PC(USA) curriculum, "These Days" devotionals, the APCE blog "The Advocate" and "Lectionary Homiletics" magazine.*



#### **QUESTIONS?**

Feel free to contact us at

**800-728-7228, ext. 5047**

or email [special.offerings@pcusa.org](mailto:special.offerings@pcusa.org)  
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