

# Sharing

**OBJECTIVE:** *To encourage each other to share even the small things we have.*



## WORSHIP

Sing praise and worship songs as well as songs about doing good that are familiar and meaningful to your group. Here are some suggestions.

- "Freely, Freely"
- "Give and It Will Be Given"
- "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"
- "Pass It On"
- "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"
- "This Is My Commandment"
- "This Little Light of Mine"

## STORY

**Jesus Feeds 5,000, John 6:1-13**

- Jesus is teaching a crowd of over 5,000 people, and it's supper time.
- One boy shares his food with Jesus.
- Jesus turns the boy's supper into enough food to feed everyone.

In a basket, place a layer of fish-shaped crackers and oyster crackers. Cover them with a napkin or paper towel and put two fish-shaped crackers and five oyster crackers on top. Show the crackers that are on top of the napkin when you tell the story. Lift up the napkin to reveal the rest of the crackers at the right time. Pass them around and snack as you finish the story.

## MEMORY VERSE

**"Do not forget to do good and to share with others" (Hebrews 13:16).**

To help the children remember this verse, sing it to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?" When everyone has learned this song, you can sing it as a round.

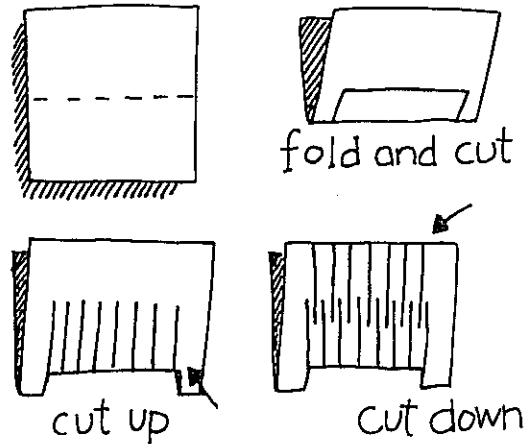


## ACTIVITIES

Choose one or more of the following activities to support the story and to provide a springboard for discussion.

**STEPPING THROUGH PAPER.** Practice this before showing it to everyone. Turn a piece of plain white paper so that the 11-inch length points north and south. Fold it in half horizontally. Save a 1-inch space on the east and west sides of the fold and do not cut these. Cut off the rest of the fold: cut into the paper 1 inch north,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches east-west, then 1 inch south, through both thicknesses (making a window in the middle of the unfolded paper). Then, with paper folded, make eight evenly spaced north-south cuts from the edges of the window to within 1 inch of the edge of the paper.

Then from the edge of the paper, make seven evenly spaced north-south cuts that go between the previous cuts to within 1 inch of the window. Point out how small the folded paper is. Then unfold, shake out, and let everyone take turns stepping through the hole. Say: "Something small turned out to be big. How can God make the small things you share turn into big blessings for others?" Let everyone try making a paper window.



**BUILDING BLOCKS.** Ask everyone to build a tower of blocks or boxes. Then ask one person to pull out one of the blocks or boxes from the bottom. Ask: "What happens? Each block may be small by itself, but it has an important part. Together they make something big. We may be small by ourselves, like the little boy who shared his small supper, but the part we have in God's family is important."

**PLAY BALL.** Play a game of volleyball (stretch out a string or sheet, use a soft ball, balloon or beach ball), basketball, softball, or kickball. Talk about the important part each person plays. Read the memory verse. Ask: "What part do you have in God's kingdom? What skill or ability can you share?"

**CANDLES.** This activity requires adult supervision. It's best if you do this as a large group, with each family helping their children with the candles. Give each child a small paper plate and a candle. Punch a small hole in the center of the plate. Stick the candle through it, narrow end first. Force the plate to slide three-fourths of the way down the candle. Hold onto candles beneath the plate. Darken the room. Light one candle for yourself. Show how much light it gives. Leave the room with your candle. Ask: "Is the room darker now?" Then, with your candle, light the other candles. Ask: "Is the room lighter?" Discuss how sharing what God has given us results in more for everyone. **Option:** To do this in conjunction with your snack, bake cupcakes. Put birthday candles on them. Then follow the lighting of candles and discussion as above.

## QUESTIONS

1. When we get together as a group, what can each of us do to encourage the others?
2. Did you ever feel small or unimportant? Why is each person important?
3. How can God take something small that you share and turn it into a big blessing for many people?

## KIDS' COUNCIL

### BRING IT HOME

- What has God given you that you can share this week?
- Do you know someone who needs to be encouraged? What can you share that might encourage them? (Encourage the children to name things that are not material: a smile, a listening ear, and so on.)
- Do you ever forget "to do good and share with others"? What can you do if you realize that you forgot?

### SHARE AND PRAY

- Ask the children to share their concerns and pray for each other.
- Pray that God will show them what to share, when to share, and who to share with.
- Thank God for giving us more than enough to share, and for sharing his blessings with us.

## ADULT STUDY QUESTIONS

- Tell about a time when you did something small and it turned out to be very important.
- Read and discuss Ezekiel 16:49. These people had plenty but didn't share. What happened to them? Can you think of a people who are arrogant and overfed today?
- Read and discuss 2 Corinthians 9:11. Why are we made rich?
- Sharing does not have to be confined to material possessions. What might be even more important to share?

## SNACKS AND FELLOWSHIP

**Giant Cookie.** Make this ahead of time, or use this as an activity. Let the children help mix your favorite cookie dough, or use the following recipe. Beat  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup softened margarine,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup granulated sugar, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups brown sugar. Add 2 eggs and 1 teaspoon vanilla. In a separate bowl, mix  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cups flour, 1 teaspoon soda,  $\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoon salt, and 1 teaspoon cinnamon. Add the flour mixture to the sugar and eggs. Beat it. Stir in 12 ounces of chocolate chips. Let the children help spread the cookie dough onto a greased pizza pan. Bake about 10 minutes at 350 degrees. Talk about how one person could keep the giant cookie for himself and make himself happy for awhile, or he could share it, and everyone could be satisfied.