



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Younger Children's (K-4th Grade) Lesson Plan

Lesson Objectives

Children will:

- Discover the work God calls them to in Isaiah 58
- Consider how big things can be accomplished when we work together
- Reflect on what specific things they can do as they work together for a better world
- Learn about projects their money supports through One Great Hour of Sharing

Resources and Equipment

- Gracie the Fish story – Gracie and Friends Use Their Gifts
 - Found at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/gracie-the-fish/>
- One Great Hour of Fish Bank (one for example – or hand out fish banks to children during the lesson if not handing them out in worship)
- Bibles for each participant
- Newsprint
- Marker
- Younger Children Activity Sheet for each participant
- Dot markers or stamp pads in a variety of colors
- Baby wipes
- Fishing for Projects fish (cut out and a paperclip placed on the fish mouth) – at least one fish for each participant
- A fishing pole (create a simple one with a dowel rod, string, and a magnet tied on to the end of the string)
- Small fishing pond (could be as simple as a large box or a small wading pool)
- Optional: Finding Nemo clip on computer (YouTube) or TV/DVD player

Set Up

- Place the fish with paperclips at the bottom of the small fishing pond.

GATHER (20 minutes)

Opening Prayer

As children gather, open them in prayer using this prayer or one you create on your own:

Good and gracious God, we gather today to give you praise and to hear your call to us. Thank you for each person gathered here today. Thank you for calling us to work together as we share your love. Amen.

The Work We are Called To—Isaiah 58

Invite children to open Bibles to Isaiah 58 (if you have access to the Common English Bible, use that translation).

Today we are going to talk about what we think God wants us to do in this world. We don't have to guess, though! God tells us right here in the Bible. Let's look at Isaiah 58 and see if we can make a list of the things that God is asking us to do.

Read through Isaiah 58 together—writing down phrases of God's commands to loose the chains of injustice, feed the hungry, etc. You might need to explain to children that fasting is a way of going without food. It was one way people showed that they loved God. But what God says is that God doesn't want empty practices...God wants actions that show love to others.

When you have the list on the board, talk briefly about each one, explaining in a more child-friendly way those that need further explanation. For example:

Loose the chains of injustice/releasing wicked restraints—make life more fair for people
Untying/breaking/removing the yoke—removing difficult burdens people experience
Sharing bread with the hungry—more than bread! Share so that no one is hungry
Giving the homeless a home
Clothing the naked
Not hiding from your own family—take care of your own family
Fingerpointing—stop blaming others
Stop speaking evil—use your words for kindness and good, not evil
Provide for those who are afflicted—Provide for those who are suffering

Whew! That is quite a list! Do these items seem easy or difficult to you?

Sometimes we can feel overwhelmed by all that needs to be done in the world. But at the end of Isaiah 58, God tells us what will happen when we do the work God asks us to do—we will be called restorers, rebuilders! God promises that the world will be restored by God through our faithful work.

Gracie and Friends Use Their Gifts

Let's listen to a story about Gracie the Fish (inspired by our One Great Hour of Sharing fish banks!) and see how she and her friends responded when they had a big job to tackle. *If children haven't yet received a fish bank, you can pass them out today.*

Read the Gracie the Fish story and then ask these questions:

- It took all of Gracie's friends and more to solve this problem in the story. How is your church working together to solve big problems like this?
- What do you know how to do well? How might you use this to help others? How might the gift of your money to OGHS help others, too?

Think about something you personally can do to help others and share it with the group.

Optional Activity:

If you have time, show a clip from the movie Finding Nemo and talk about how all the fish worked together to "just keep swimming." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFA2EscJopM>

EXPLORE (35 minutes)

Fingerprint Fish

Using the Younger Children Activity Sheet, invite children to select one color of either a dot marker or stamp pad. Follow the instructions on the activity sheet.

Use baby wipes to clean thumbs when done with the markers/stamp pads.

Have everyone hold up their fish (when they receive theirs back) and discuss together:

- What do you notice about the fish?
- If each thumbprint represents something one person is doing to help someone else, what do you think of when you see all the different thumbprints decorating your beautiful fish?
- When I see these pretty fish—I think of how much good in the world there is when we all work together to help others. We can each do our own part and when we each contribute, we can accomplish so much.

Fishing for Projects

One Great Hour of Sharing is a special offering received by our church (and many other churches around the country in our denomination). The money that's received in the offering goes to support projects around the world that address some of the issues that God is concerned with that we heard about in Isaiah 58—feeding the hungry, working to make the world more fair, helping people who are suffering or who have experienced a tragedy.

Today, we're going to go fishing for projects and learn about the ways our denomination (lots of Presbyterian churches around the country) are coming together to create a better world.

Invite each child to "fish" for a project by using the magnet on the fishing pole to catch a fish. Once a child has caught a fish, ask them (or a friend who can read) to share about the project with the group.

Wow! That's a lot of good happening in the world, all because people came together and gave generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. When we work together, we can do so much more than we can by ourselves. And you can be part of this work by filling up your One Great Hour of Sharing fish bank!

CLOSE (5 minutes)

Invite each child to choose a fish from the fish project fishing game and grab their fingerprint fish.

We're going to close in prayer today for the projects doing good work around the world through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

When we pray for the projects, make your fish "swim!" Demonstrate by wiggling your fish around.

Closing Prayer

Dear God, thank you for the generosity of people sharing—their money, their gifts, their time—to make this world a better place. Thank you for each of these projects (make fish "swim") and the ways we can come together to do the work in our world that you want us to do. We pray for those who will be helped by these projects. Thank you for the ways we can help others. Help us to notice places where we can make a difference and then respond with your love. Amen.

Invite the children to keep their Fishing for Projects fish and their fingerprint fish in a spot where they will notice it at home. Whenever they see it, encourage them to pray for that project and for ways they can help in the world.

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