



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

2025 | YOUNGER CHILDREN'S LESSON MARCH 5-APRIL 10

JoAnne Sharp, CCE

Purpose:

To help children learn about the One Great Hour of Sharing Churchwide Special Offering.

Before Class, Gather the Following Materials:

- A copy of “The One Day House” by Julia Durango or cue up the YouTube video: youtube.com/watch?v=Te1EKUXm6dQ
- Templates of house shape, door, chimney, roof (to save time, precut the pieces of the house out of various colors of construction paper or cardstock per child)
- Sheets of construction paper for the background
- Glue sticks
- Crayons or markers
- Flower stickers
- Blank cards with envelopes (purchase locally or from Amazon): amazon.com/XXINMOH-Envelopes-Cardstock-Self-Seal-Invitations/dp/BoCQRMgPKH/ref=sr_1_15?crid
- Stickers
- Markers or crayons

Beginning Time Together

Before beginning the time together, invite the children to center themselves by sitting in a comfortable position.

Say: “Let’s take a deep breath in ... hold it ... and slowly let it out.”
Repeat this three times.

Scripture: Isaiah 58:1–12

Normally for young children it is best to use a child-friendly translation, for example, the Common English Bible; this doesn't work well since the key verse 12 uses the NRSVUE translation. CEB uses "menders of broken walls." You can use CEB, and then just share that another way to say verse 12 is "repairer of the breach." This Scripture can be hard for young children to understand, so the focus should be on helping others.

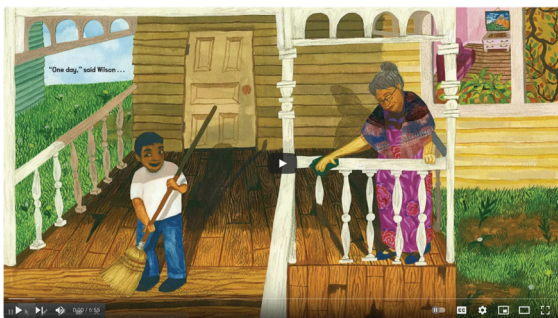
Say: "By helping others, we are living into what God wants us to do."

Ask:

- "Can any of you fix a broken wall?"
- "What about fixing a roof?"
- "Has Mom or Dad let you help paint a room in your house?"

Say: "Today, we are going to share the book "The One Day House" by Julia Durango. It's about a boy named Wilson who wants to help fix up Gigi's house so it will be warm and safe for her."

Read the book or share the YouTube video: youtube.com/watch?v=Te1EKUXm6dQ.



Wondering Questions

Ask these questions after sharing the story:

1. "I wonder why Wilson wanted to help Gigi."
2. "I wonder why other people wanted to help fix up Gigi's house."
3. "Can you help repair someone's house?"

Most of the children will answer "no," and this is when you get to tell them:

Say: "Maybe you can't go and do the actual repairs on a house like Wilson and his community did for Gigi. BUT, when you fill up your Fish Bank, that money gets added to other Fish Banks. Then, all that money can go toward repairing houses that need to be fixed."

"All over the United States, the PC(USA) helps people whose homes have been damaged by hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding and wildfires."

Say: “One Great Hour of Sharing doesn’t just help with repairing homes. Funds from it also help address hunger issues. Food Banks like [name a program your congregation supports] receive funds. This way, they can buy food items in large quantities. Then, when we take our donations to them, ours is added to what they have. Purchasing in large amounts lets [name the organization] get more bang for their bucks!”

Say: “Sometimes people’s homes aren’t damaged by natural disasters. They are like Gigi’s house. Gigi is older, and her money can only go so far — she has to buy groceries, medicine and other things she needs. Sometimes people can’t afford to fix things in their house, and after a while, the house might not be safe or warm. This is when organizations can ask for gifts from the One Great Hour of Sharing to help people fix up their houses. The organization in our book is called Build Up Neighbors.”

Say: “So, by filling up your Fish Banks, you can repair someone’s home. Then, when you’re older, you can go on mission trips like our youth and adults do. Everyone deserves a home that is safe and warm, and you help that happen!”

Activities

1. “REPAIR GIGI’S HOUSE”

Encourage the children to create Gigi’s house and retell the story of how Wilson and the community took one day to make Gigi’s home warm and safe again. Don’t forget the fenced-in yard for Gigi’s dog!

Materials:

- Precut templates of house shape, door, chimney and roof (various colors of construction paper or cardstock)
- Sheets of construction paper for the background
- Glue sticks
- Crayons or markers
- Flower stickers

2. CARING CARDS

Have the children create Caring Cards that you will provide to one of the organizations your congregation partners with to assist those in need.

Say: “Sometimes, just an encouraging word can start to repair a breach. These cards are going to go to one of our ministry partners for them to share with people who come to them for assistance.”

Instructions:

- Let the children decorate the front of the card using stickers or by drawing a picture.
- On the inside, glue a Bible verse or a simple prayer for the person receiving the card.

Materials:

- Blank cards with envelopes (purchase locally or from Amazon):
[amazon.com/XXINMOH-Envelopes-Cardstock-Self-Seal-Invitations/dp/BoCQRM9PKH/ref=sr_1_1_15?crd](https://www.amazon.com/XXINMOH-Envelopes-Cardstock-Self-Seal-Invitations/dp/BoCQRM9PKH/ref=sr_1_1_15?crd)
- Stickers
- Markers or crayons

Wrap-Up

Thank the children for participating. Remind them that even though they may feel small, their efforts — like filling up their Fish Banks — make a BIG difference in helping people have safe, warm homes and food to eat.

**QUESTIONS?**

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

Template Page

"One Day House" Activity

