



**A Bible-based
children's curriculum
on hunger**

Is There Enough?



Lesson plans for:

- Pre-school
- Kindergarten - 2nd Grade
- Upper Elementary

easily used in a broadly-graded format

INTRODUCTION

These materials are designed to provide a children's curriculum dealing with hunger. The lessons are grounded in biblical themes that address every child's responsibility to share. Sharing within the family unit is extended to sharing within the family of God; stressing that we are all members and responsible for one another.

The sessions are interrelated but may stand alone. Each is graded Preschool, Kindergarten – Second Grade, and Upper Elementary, but can be used in a broadly-graded format. The intended audience includes church educators, pastors, and teachers, who are encouraged to adapt the curriculum to their own situations. As with all educational programs, these can be greatly enriched by the creativity of those teaching and the addition of resources from local community ministries.

POSSIBLE SETTINGS

- Church School: a 5-week curriculum with 1-hour segments that can be used during special times of the Church Year, such as Lent or in the summer as a special focus.
- Vacation Bible School or Church Camp: with the addition of opening and closing assemblies and the extension of creative and recreational activities, each session can fill a 3-hour time frame.
- After-School Programs: much like VBS, after-school programs offer a time format allowing for extended lessons and activities. This type of setting would be perfect for doing “field trips” into the community.
- Intergenerational Programs: the curriculum provides opportunities for involving several generations. For example, the gleaning project in Session 3 can be done together, or adults can share in the process of preparing the food for the children. Mission projects, chosen and supported as an outcome of the lessons, can be shared by all generations.

NOTES FOR THE LEADERS

- Each segment begins with a reflection on the scripture and a brief presentation of the objective for the lesson, intended for teachers of all grade levels. Take time to read the scripture and reflect upon it. All scripture comes from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.
- Plan an environment that helps to tell the story. Begin creation in a dimly-lighted room, and as God creates day and night, turn on the lights. Create a hillside with a green rug or palm trees made out of newspaper for the story of the feeding of the five thousand. Look inside and outside your Church for places that already have a setting in which to tell the story. Can you create a setting with music? With stained glass windows or other artwork?
- Many lesson plans include a special section with suggestions for those who teach with learning centers. Learning centers require advance preparation. Be sure to read through the materials and create the centers in your mind. Then locate the space and pull the materials together. The telling of the session's Bible story can happen before exploring the centers, or it can be the focus of activity for a particular center.

- This curriculum has been constructed to be as user-friendly as possible. There are suggestions for arts and crafts and ideas for games, songs, and snacks. You will also find ideas for additional activities in the Learning Center sections.

Text that is presented in a rounded green font suggests a possible script for teacher use. *[Italics]* indicate children's responses or possible answers to questions posed by the teacher.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Is There Enough? was written by Vennie Constant, a former member of the Presbyterian Hunger Program staff. Vennie has also served as Director of Christian Education in both Presbyterian and Episcopal congregations.

Thanks to Laura Christianson, a member of University Presbyterian Church in Seattle, for sharing her guide to recommended church school software and online resources for Christian Educators. In her article printed in the April 2000 issue of *Presbyterians Today*, Laura encourages us all to begin to use these very creative resources.

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Lesson 1 – Reflection

“And God saw that it was good.” (Genesis 1:12)

Theme: From the beginning, God sets forth a balanced plan for the earth.

Scripture: Genesis 1:1 – 2:4

Reflection

This is a very active creation story. God pulls, and places, and separates and forms the new creation. God turns chaos into order. Each piece of the whole is complimentary as well as sufficient. There is enough light for growing and enough darkness for rest. There is enough land for the plants and enough water to house the sea creatures. There is enough fruit for food and enough seed to ensure continued prosperity.

The responsibility for maintaining that perfect order – that balance – now belongs to us. The objective for this lesson is for us as educators, pastors, and caregivers to retell the story and impress upon the children their responsibility to maintain and enrich God's creation.

Lesson 1 – Preschool

WELCOME

As the children come into the room, welcome them to God's world! Give the children copies of the *Is There Enough?* logo (child with world, see Reproducible Sheets p. 11), and have them begin to color in the land and the seas. (For VBS, you can use the logo on a smaller scale for nametags, which the children can color.)

TELL THE STORY

Genesis 1:1 – 2:4

This is the story of how God made our world.

Day #1: God pulled the light from the dark.

Motion: Put your hands together in front of your body and pull as if pulling taffy.

God named the light, day.

God named the dark, night.

Day #2: God made a dome.

Motion: Raise your arms above your head and pull down to your sides, creating a semi-circle.

God named the dome, sky.

Day #3: God named the dry land, earth.

Motion: Place hands with palms up in front of you and extend outwards from your body and to the sides.

And the waters gathered together, seas.

Motion: Put arms in a circle and pull towards you as if gathering.

Day #4: God made two great lights.

Motion: Place each light in the sky.

One for the day, sun and one for the night, moon.

Day #5: God made birds fly above the earth.

Motion: Extend arms and soar like a bird.

And creatures swim in the sea.

Motion: Place hands together with palms touching and move hands in wiggly lines like fish swimming.

Day #6: God made living creatures – cattle and creeping things and wild animals.

God made people.

Motion: Point to the children.

And told us to take care of God's world.

Day #7: And God saw that it was good. God rested!

PRAYER BEFORE SNACK

Let's have a snack after we say thank you to God; I'm going to use an old Hebrew prayer that Jesus would have used: *Blessed art thou, Jehovah our God, King of the universe, who bringest forth bread from the earth. Amen.*

SNACK

Apples: cut the apple across its diameter; show the children the star inside the apple.

MUSIC

"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

"For the Beauty of the Earth" #473, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#14 in *Glory to God*)

GAMES

BALL AND PARACHUTE

Materials Needed:

- Large Ball
- Parachute or Round Tablecloth or Sheet cut in a circle

Position the children around the edges of the parachute or cloth; place the ball in the center. Have the children move the parachute or cloth up and down, trying to keep the ball on the parachute. Lesson: Ball is the earth, and it takes all of us helping to keep our creation the way God made it.

BALANCE BEAM

Material Needed:

- Masking Tape (for Preschoolers)

Place a strip of masking tape on the floor; have the children walk on the line with one foot in front of the other, with arms extended. Lesson: Sometimes, it's hard to balance; God will help us do that!

CLOSING

Say a prayer thanking God for the earth; have the children participate by using the hand motions from the Creation story.

PRAYER MODEL

God, maker of our earth, we thank you for the light and dark, the sky and the earth, the sun and moon, the creepy, crawling things. We thank you, God, for creating friends to share. Amen.

Creation Journey with Learning Centers

Label the centers Day 1, Day 2, etc.
(Tell the story before going to the Learning Centers.)

Day #1

Pictures of day and night, black and white art. Or use a flannel board to create a creation puzzle. Begin with a dark circle, add light, sky, creeping things, etc. Put it in the learning center for the children to put together.

Day #2

Pictures of sky

Day #3

Containers of dirt/sand and water; small plants and fruits with seeds (If you want to make this a snack station, cut apples in half to show the seeds; offer a prayer and have them for your snack.)

Day #4

Pictures of sun/moon/stars

With stencils in the shapes of sun/moon/stars, use chalk to outline on white or black construction paper (See Reproducible Sheets – p. 2). Or use pre-cut sponges of nature shapes dipped in paint to create pictures.

Day #5

Books about birds and sea creatures

Day #6

Humankind

Bible Verse: *“And God saw that it was good.”*

Copy pattern on yellow construction paper (See Reproducible Sheets – p. 1). Have the children make a “smiling face” inside the circle.

Day #7

God rested!

Have children sit in circle for juice/water. If you have not had your snack, you can do so here.

Lesson 1 – Kindergarten – Second Grade

WELCOME

As the children enter the room, have one copy of the Is There Enough? logo for each child; have them begin to color the world (See Reproducible Sheets – p. 11).

READ THE STORY

Genesis 1:1 – 2:4 (You may want to have children that read do a part of the story.)

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- Make a time line: Day 1 – Light and Dark, Day 2 – Sky, etc. Assign each child or group of children a day and have them construct a picture of the day's activity. (Pastel chalks and construction paper are wonderful for this! You can also use sidewalk chalk and have them do the time line on a sidewalk outside the Church. Check to see where outside would be the best place to have the children do their chalk drawings.)
- Provide a long strip of brown Kraft or art paper divided into seven segments. Have available: crayons, chalk, markers, construction paper, scissors, stencils, glue, even sand (colored sands are readily available), and dried plants and seeds. Let them use their imaginations to recreate God's world.

Hang the artwork in your classroom, creating an environment for retelling the story.

DISCUSS THE STORY (Sitting in a circle.)

God must be very powerful to have made all these things. But the most important thing is that because God loves us all so much, nothing is missing. It is a perfect plan. Let's see –

- ☛ What happens to the plants if they get too much sun and no water? [*They die.*]
- ☛ What happens if they get no sun? [*They don't grow.*]
- ☛ What happens to the plants if they get sunshine during the day, enough water and rest at night? [*They grow.*]

God planned it perfectly – night and day!

- ☛ Where are the seeds in this apple? [*Inside – cut open an apple to reveal the seeds.*]
- ☛ What will grow from these seeds? [*An apple tree, an apple*]
- ☛ If the apple didn't have seeds, what would happen? [*No more apples, no more trees.*]

God planned it perfectly – fruit and seeds!

- ☛ Who is going to eat these apples? [*We are*] (Serve snack.)
- ☛ How many of you like snakes? Are they creeping things? [*Yes*]
- ☛ What do they eat? [*Mice and rats that eat a farmer's corn.*]
- ☛ Is that a good thing? [*Yes*]
- ☛ Are snakes food for others? [*Yes, eagles*]

God planned it perfectly – food for all!

- ☛ Are you glad that God created people?
- ☛ What people are you glad God created? [*Let them name specific persons.*]
- ☛ When God created people, God made us all responsible for the earth.
- ☛ What can you do to take care of the earth? [*Recycle, plant a garden, pick up trash, use less electricity.*]

God planned it perfectly – God made you!

PRAYER BEFORE SNACK

Let's use an old Hebrew blessing that Jesus would have prayed to ask God to bless our snack: *Blessed art thou, Jehovah our God, King of the universe, who bringest forth bread from the earth. Amen.*

SNACK

Dirt Cups (See Arts & Crafts section.)

MUSIC

"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

"All Things Bright and Beautiful" #267, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#20 in *Glory to God*)

GAMES

BALL AND PARACHUTE

Materials Needed:

- Large Ball
- Parachute or Round Tablecloth or Sheet cut in a circle

Position the children around the edges of the parachute or cloth; place the ball in the center. Have the children move the parachute or cloth up and down, trying to keep the ball on the parachute. Lesson: Ball is the earth, and it takes all of us helping to keep our creation the way God made it.

BALANCE BEAM

Material Needed:

- 2 x 4 piece of wood (for Kindergarten-Second Grade)

Place the piece of wood on the floor. Have each child try to walk on the beam with one foot in front of the other, arms extended. If a child is having a hard time, let another child help by holding their hand. Lesson: Sometimes, it's hard to balance; God will help us do that. And when we are having a difficult time, God gives us other people to help! That's why God put humankind in charge of creation, so that we can help one another to keep our balance.

CLOSING

Say a prayer thanking God for the earth; have the children participate in the prayer time to say thanks for their favorite part of the earth that God created.

PRAYER MODEL

God, the creator of our world, we are thankful for the day and night, the sun and moon, the stars that twinkle in the sky. You have given us a rich world in which to live. Help us to take care of it. Amen.

Creation Journey with Learning Centers

Day #1

Pictures of day/night or black/white

Day #2

Pictures of sky. Or, weather permitting, take the children outside, have them lie down flat on their backs and just look up!

Books with photos of earth from the moon

Day #3

Provide containers of dirt/sand, water and small plants and have each child pot a small plant or tree seedling. Or make a terrarium for them to take home. (See Arts & Crafts section.)

Day #4

Sun, moon, stars

Make a mobile with shapes of stars, sun and moon (See Reproducible Sheets – p. 2).

Day #5

Books about birds/sea creatures; display a collection of sea shells

Day #6

Humankind

Games and Activities: Ball and Parachute or Balance Beam (see Kindergarten – Second Grade Lesson 1)

Day #7

God rested! Provide a space for a brief rest.

Lesson 1 – Upper Elementary

>Note: It would be easy to make this into an environmental lesson for older children because they have a lot of knowledge about the environment and many are involved in recycling, etc. But the creation story is more than this. It is about the balance of the earth and God's provisions for all humankind: that is really what we want to teach in this lesson.

READ THE STORY

Have the children read the story (Genesis 1:1 – 2:4). Be prepared to divide it up into parts for those that want to read aloud. Use one Bible so that they have to share the Word – it belongs to everyone.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- While listening to Gustav Holtz's, *The Planets*, have the children interpret the music by writing a Poem of Creation. Invite them to share their work.
- Create a rap version of the Creation story. Have them perform it.
- Have pastel chalks and black construction paper available and assign each child a day in creation to draw.
- Create Sand Art (see Arts & Crafts section.)



MISSION FOCUS

People often feel close to the God of creation when they plant gardens to raise flowers and food to eat. They can see how God makes everything work together to help the plants grow. How many of you know someone with a garden? People who live in neglected parts of cities have fewer chances to garden. In several cities, our Hunger Program helps people start their own gardens. These gardens provide healthy food to eat. When we give money to [our offering/the One Great Hour of Sharing/2 cents a meal, etc.], we can help care for the earth and partner with other people to address social concerns, helping more people share in the gifts that God gave for us all.

PRAYER BEFORE SNACK

Use this Hebrew blessing before snack time:

Blessed art thou, Jehovah our God, King of the universe, who bringest forth bread from the earth. Amen.

SNACK

Fresh veggies and dip; Dirt Cups (See Arts & Crafts section.)

MUSIC

“For the Beauty of the Earth” #473, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#14 in *Glory to God*)

“God You Spin the Whirling Planets” #285, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#23 in *Glory to God*)

“All Things Bright and Beautiful” #267, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#20 in *Glory to God*)

“He's Got the Whole World in His Hands”

CLOSING

Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for God's creation, our world. Praise God for the diversity of the creation – movement, color, plants, animals, light and dark. Ask God to help us keep the richness and energy of this world to benefit all God's people.

PRAYER MODEL

God, creator of the earth, you give your children so much richness – movement and color, dark and light, and animals of every kind. You bless this land with sun and rain to make everything grow. You give us everything that's good. Amen.

Lesson 2 – Reflection

“Gather as much of it as each of you needs.” (Genesis 1:12)

Theme: God sets the example with the Israelites.

Scripture: Exodus 16:11-26

Reflection

The story of manna from the book of Exodus is almost a foretelling of what is to happen to God's creation. God warns the Israelites that God will provide as long as they follow the instructions God has given to Moses. Gather as much of it as each of you needs is a guideline for the continuation of prosperity. Those that ignore God's instructions do not come out ahead; rather God spoils the excess.

This is a wonderful lesson to build upon the Creation story where God has made an earth in balance. With the Israelites, God uses them to set the example and asks them to only gather enough. Like us, the Israelites have to be prodded along the journey and reminded to walk in faith. They, too, must suffer the consequences of their actions.

The objective of this lesson is to remind the children that God's love is enormous; God provides enough for all of God's children. Our actions have consequences for ourselves as well as for others.

Lesson 2 – Preschool

WELCOME

On this second day as the children come into the room, greet them by saying: **Today we are going on a trip – a journey.** Have available a selection of tote bags or brown paper sacks for them to decorate.

TELL THE STORY (Part 1) (Sitting in a circle)

Today's story from the Bible is about Moses and God's people, the Israelites. They are going on a journey. They are leaving a land called Egypt and taking a very long trip. Let's pretend that we are going with them. When you go on a trip, you take things with you. We need to do that, too. Let's decide what we need to carry.

Have available pictures of items that the Israelites would need: tent for shelter, water jug, Bible, donkey, clothing. Let each child or group of children select an item to carry in their tote bag or paper sack. (In a large group, you will need multiple pictures of the items.)

Let's walk over to our camp site and put down our things. Seat the children at a different location. You might want to construct a tent out of chairs and fabrics or help them create a tent and campfire in their imaginations.

TELL THE STORY (Part 2)

The Israelites were tired from walking this day and many days before. They were not very happy; they were mad at Moses and at God. They had walked all this way and they had nothing to eat. They were grumbling. Help me do that – grumble, grumble, grumble. Moses goes to talk with God and God says there will be plenty to eat! The Israelites go to bed hungry but in the morning, there is manna all over the ground for them to eat. Moses tells the Israelites to get only what they need – God will always give them enough so they won't be hungry. Everyone will have enough. God promised!

MANNA DISTRIBUTION

You will need a carton of oats, a 1/4 cup measure, a large bowl, and a paper cup for each child. **Let's pretend that we have some manna. Here is a big bowl of manna for all of us.** (Measure out 1/4 cup of the oatmeal for each child and put in bowl.) **Everyone needs a paper cup. If each of you takes this much, (show them 1/4 cup) there will be enough for everyone.** (Pass the bowl around.)

We did it! Everyone took just enough, like God asked us to do. There is plenty for all. God has made enough food for everyone in the world if we all only take what we need. There is enough!

PRAYER AND SNACK

Now, let's thank God for our food:

Blessed art thou, Jehovah our God, King of the universe, who bringest forth bread from the earth. Amen.

Let 's trade in our manna for some oatmeal cookies and have our snack.

GAME

Moses, May I (Adapt this children's game using Moses, May I rather than Mother, May I.)

REMINDER

Tomorrow (or for our next lesson), each one of you is asked to bring one can of food for our class. (See Mission Activities section.)

CLOSING

Ask the children to return their bags. You have finished a journey but someone else might need these things for another trip. Offer a prayer reflecting upon God's love for us in giving us what we need.

PRAYER MODEL

God, sometimes we have a hard time doing what you tell us to do. Sometimes, we grumble, too. You still love us and give us what we need to grow. Thank you. Amen.

Exodus Journey with Learning Centers

- Site 1** The Israelites are going on a journey.
Have items for travel; pictures of things needed on a journey - tent, water jug, Bible, donkey, clothing.
Help prioritize what is needed for the journey.
- Site 2** The Israelites set up a camp.
Set up a tent. (This is a good center in which to tell the story and include the Manna Distribution exercise.)
- Site 3** God provides manna for food.
Make Soap Sculpture Pictures. (See Arts & Crafts section, page ART-2.)
- Site 4** The Israelites thank God for their food.
Prayer: Ancient Hebrew Blessing
Snack time: Oatmeal Cookies/Juice
- Site 5** The Israelites are happy.
Music: Dance the Hora.
(Complete instructions for dancing the Hora are included in *Recreation with Dance, Movement & Music* by Glenn O. Bannerman and M. Neil Pugsley, Bridge Resources, Louisville - 1999. Instruction videos are also available online.)
- Make Tambourines (see Arts & Crafts section) or use instruments.

Lesson 2 – Kindergarten – Second Grade

WELCOME

As the children come into the room, greet them by saying that today the class is going on a trip – a journey. Have available a selection of tote bags or brown paper sacks for them to decorate. (Use with Scavenger Hunt; see end of lesson.)

TELL THE STORY

Read Exodus 16:11-26, having the children that read take a part. Let this first reading of the story stand on its own, without comment. After reading the story, establish some context by asking these questions:

- 🍃 Who were the Israelites? *[God's people/Hebrews]*
- 🍃 Who was their leader? *[Moses]*
- 🍃 What country were they leaving? *[Egypt]*
- 🍃 Where were they going? *[Promised Land]*
- 🍃 Manna – what was it? *[Food, like bread]*
- 🍃 What happened if one person took too much? *[Spoiled]*
- 🍃 Let's think about that in our lives.
- 🍃 What happens if Mom buys too much milk and your family can't drink it all?
[Turns sour]
- 🍃 What happens if you have too many bananas that you can't eat? *[Turn black]*
- 🍃 What happens to your bread or manna if you forget about it and don't eat it up?
[Moldy]

This is what God was trying to teach the Israelites. God will give us all enough food; if we take too much, it will turn sour or get moldy. God has created enough food for the whole world if we each take only as much as each of us needs.

MANNA DISTRIBUTION (Sitting in circle)

Pass out a paper cup to each child. Produce a bowl with uncooked oatmeal that contains an amount equal to 1/4 cup for each child. Ask the children to take 1/4 cup measure of manna and put it in their cup. Have the children begin passing the bowl; position yourself midway in the circle and when it comes to you, measure out 3/4 cup. Continue passing the bowl; you should end up with 2 children who have no manna.

- 🍃 What's the problem here? *[Two didn't get anything.]*
- 🍃 How did that happen? *[Teacher took too much.]*
- 🍃 How can we solve the problem? *[Share the manna.]*

I didn't do what God asked me to do, did I? I was greedy and took too much. What I have will spoil while some of you have nothing. Now if I share, everyone will have enough. (Give 1/4 cup measure to the children with the empty cups.)

PRAYER AND SNACK

Let's have a prayer: *Blessed art thou, Jehovah our God, King of the universe, who bringest forth bread from the earth. Amen.*

Let's trade in our manna for some oatmeal cookies.

GAME

Moses, May I (Adapt this children's game using Moses, May I rather than Mother, May I.)

MUSIC

"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

#592, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#606, 607, 608, 609 in *Glory to God*)

REMINDER

Tomorrow (or for our next lesson), each one of you is asked to bring one canned good for our class.

CLOSING

Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for a God that loves us and gives us what we need. Thanks to a God who blesses us when we share what we have with others.

PRAYER MODEL

God, sometimes it is hard not to want everything. Sometimes, we forget how to share with others. You love all the children in the world and want us to share with each other. Help us to do that. Amen.

Exodus Journey with Learning Centers

- Site 1** The Israelites are going on a journey.
Scavenger Hunt (see end of lesson).
- Site 2** The Israelites set up a camp.
Use materials from the Scavenger Hunt for the children to set up a camp.
- Site 3** God provides manna for food.
Use this center for telling the story.
Make Soap Sculpture Pictures (see Arts & Crafts section.)
- Site 4** The Israelites thank God for their food.
Prayer (Ancient Hebrew Blessing) and snack of oatmeal cookies
- Site 5** The Israelites are happy.
Make Tambourines (see Arts & Crafts section.)
Dance the Hora.
(Complete instructions for dancing the Hora are included in *Recreation with Dance, Movement & Music* by Glenn O. Bannerman and M. Neil Pugsley, Bridge Resources, Louisville - 1999. Instruction videos are also available online.)

SCAVENGER HUNT

>Note: Have the children work in pairs (a reader and a non-reader makes a good pair.) Some of these things will be readily available outside: set boundaries for the children, and have a helper go with them. If you don't have a place to go outside or if the weather doesn't permit, you may have to place items (such as twigs and rocks) around the inside of the building. Provide small non-breakable containers for them to get water out of the drinking fountain or a sink. Bird seed or grass seed will work for animal feed. Some churches have Orff instruments (such as xylophones) that can be used: if you do not, consider having the children make their tambourines first.

The Israelites will need some things to take with them on the journey; let's see if we can help them get ready. Here's your list and we're ready to go!

- Firewood – we will need this for the fire to cook and keep us warm.
- Water – we will need water to drink and also for cooking and washing.
- Rocks – they will help hold down the tent from the wind and will be placed around the fire.
- Grass or grain or seeds – the animals – the camels and donkeys – will need something to eat.
- Musical instruments – we will need these to make music in the evenings.
- Cloth – we will need this for our tent and to make clothing.

Lesson 2 – Upper Elementary

>Note: This is a scripture passage that upper elementary children may not have been exposed to. In our individualistic society, need is sometimes translated as “I gotta have.” In a country where the number of collectibles a child owns is an assessment of wealth, many of our children are like the Israelites who brought too much manna.

WELCOME

As the children come into the classroom, prepare a bowl of oatmeal, adding milk. (Instant oatmeal in the packages is pretty quick to prepare.) As they watch, ask the children how many of them left their cereal bowl, with milk and cereal still in it, sitting on the kitchen counter. Did they pour a little too much cereal in the bowl and couldn't quite eat it all? Has anyone had that experience? What's it going to look like when you get home? If you leave it there, what's it going to look like the morning after that? Let's set this bowl aside until the end of class and see what happens.

READ THE STORY

Have the children read Exodus 16:11-26.

The Israelites are going on a long journey; they only know that they are going to the Promised Land. You are an Israelite; what will you take with you and why?

Make a list with newsprint and markers.

What are the basic needs of life? Food, water, shelter, clothing, money or ways to earn money. Have we named them in the list of items for the journey?

Do you have all these things? Does everyone? Name some people who do not have the basic needs of life? [*Homeless people, refugees, poor people in developing nations*]

How would you define “enough?”

God instructs us to gather as much as each of you needs. Concerning food, what does that mean to you? How do you know what is enough? Does everyone need an equal amount? [*Not necessarily; bigger people require more calories, hungry people require good food with protein. People who work hard need more food. Note that rich people have access to more and better food than the poor.*]

GAME

Sharing Food in a Hungry World

You will need a current world map, a 20-slice loaf of bread, and the following chart printed on poster board or a blackboard. Prepare a small sign with the name of each continent.

Let's play a game called “Sharing Food in a Hungry World.”

Bread is the most common form of food in the world. Almost every culture has bread. It's made from grain – wheat, corn, rice, barley, oats. How many of you eat bread for breakfast? Are you including bagels and muffins? How about lunch? Remember that turkey sandwich? How about dinner with rolls or cornbread?

We are going to use bread as a measure; a measure of how food is distributed in the world.

Continent	% of Population	Children/Chairs out of 20	# of Slices	% Eaten
1. Asia with Australia	55%	11	5	25%
2. Europe	15%	3	7	35%
3. Africa	15%	3	2	10%
4. South America	10%	2	2	10%
5. North America	5%	1	4	20%

I have a sign for each of the major continents. (See column 1 of chart.)

Let's locate these continents on the map.

What is the percentage of the world's population for each continent? (See column 2 of chart.) In this game, we need to divide up to represent that percentage of the population. (With smaller groups, try to divide as accurately as possible. Alternately, you might want to add empty chairs in each group to provide an accurate division. Based upon 20 persons, see column 3 of the chart to construct your groups.) Let's name ourselves, with each leader wearing a sign.

I am going to distribute the bread according to the percentage eaten on each continent. (See column 4 for the number of slices of bread.) The leader of each continent will receive the total amount; it is up to the leaders to decide who gets what. Don't eat the bread yet!

DISCUSSION (after the bread is distributed)

Let's think about what happened.

- ☛ Who seems rich; who seems poor?
- ☛ Did anyone give up some of their bread to share with another country? Why?
- ☛ Did anyone feel greedy?
- ☛ Did anyone feel that others were greedy?
- ☛ Did the leaders have "power?"
- ☛ Did anyone have to beg for bread?
- ☛ Is 1/2 a slice of bread enough to feed someone?
- ☛ If we listen to God's instructions to gather only as much of it as each of you needs, then how do we distribute the bread?
- ☛ Are there some hidden truths in the percentages of bread eaten? *[Poorer nations may not have the money to buy the bread that is available.]*
- ☛ What does a hurricane do to a field of grain that is ready to harvest?
- ☛ What happens when governments choose not to share?
- ☛ What else can you think of?



MISSION FOCUS

The secret of making sure that everyone has enough is Sharing. If we share what God has given to the whole world, then nobody has to be hungry. One of the ways that our church shares is through of something called the One Great Hour of Sharing. It's a special offering we receive at Easter, and it helps people who don't have enough to eat and people who don't have homes because of hurricanes and tornadoes and wars. Can you think of other ways our church shares with people who don't have enough?

PRAYER AND SNACK

After our prayer, we can eat the bread – you can add butter or cream cheese and jelly, if you like. (You will want to eat a different loaf of bread than the one you used in the exercise above.)

Ancient Hebrew Blessing: *Blessed art thou, Jehovah our God, King of the universe, who bringest forth bread from the earth. Amen.*

MUSIC

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

#592, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#606, 607, 608, 609 in *Glory to God*)

“Dear Lord, Give Bread” (Senor, de Pan) #136, Banquet of Praise

“Let Us Break Bread Together” #513, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#525 in *Glory to God*)

ARTS AND MUSIC

Make Tambourines (see Arts & Crafts section.)

Dance the Hora (Complete instructions for dancing the Hora are included in *Recreation with Dance, Movement & Music* by Glenn O. Bannerman and M. Neil Pugsley, Bridge Resources, Louisville - 1999. Instruction videos are also available online.)

REMINDER

Tomorrow (or for our next lesson), each one of you is asked to bring one canned good for our class.

CLOSING

How do oatmeal and tambourines and food distribution patterns all fit together? Well, let's look at the bowl of oatmeal. It's rather spoiled-looking. Perhaps this is a way to make the point of today's lesson. The Israelites were a chosen people, a people that loved to sing and dance and come together as a community. They were not only chosen, but God promised to take care of them. If they would do as God commanded, God would always provide for them. Many believed and did just that. Perhaps a few just couldn't quite believe that God had this under control; they questioned God. There was enough for everyone, but for those that chose to disobey, God spoiled the excess. This extra bowl of oatmeal could have been breakfast for someone rather than something that has to be thrown away.

There is also excess grain in the world, much of which is stored in warehouses. The grain would be best used by sharing with those whose grain fields have been destroyed by natural disasters or those sitting in camps after a war or for those who simply don't have enough. Its greatest disaster is to rot in those warehouses while no one is blessed by it. Who makes the choice to share?

Offer a prayer reflecting upon God's love and God's promise to provide what we need, a prayer of thanksgiving that God has chosen us to be God's people – a people who love one another enough to share what we have.

PRAYER MODEL

God make us a faithful people. We thank you for the manna that you give to us. We trust you to feed our bodies. Trust us, God, to share our excess with others so that all the world may be fed. Amen.

Lesson 3 – Reflection

“May the Lord reward you for your deeds.” (Ruth 2:12)

Theme: God inspires people to share.

Scripture: Ruth 2:5-11, 17-18; Deuteronomy 24:19

Reflection

The story of Ruth is a story of relationships. Ruth and Naomi are related not by blood but by circumstance. Their countries and cultures are different, and yet between them is a bond of caring. They must work together to survive in a land that has suffered famine. Naomi uses her connections to the community to advise Ruth where to find food, and Ruth uses her ability to do work to secure that food.

This is a wonderful model for sharing between persons and within the larger community. Ruth is able to gather the excess food that the community has reserved for the orphaned and widowed in their midst. Ruth uses only as much as she needs and then shares the rest with Naomi. Ruth does the work because she is able and brings the grain home to feed them both.

The objectives of this lesson are threefold: to explain the concept of gleaning, to show its value even in a throw-away society, and to share an example of how God loves us and provides for us in many different ways. The grain that Ruth was able to gather was left for those in need as God has commanded. In America today, most of our grain is grown on very large farms that can be far from the cities and even the rural towns. For people who do not have transportation (cars, money for bus tickets, etc.) it's hard to get to a place where you can glean, even if it were allowed. In today's society, it is harder to recognize the “fields” where gleaning occurs, but think about food pantries, food stamps, and the government commodities program as modern counterparts. Gleaning will not solve the world's hunger, but it does help. Most importantly, the gleaning laws show that God expects us to provide the means for feeding the hungry.

> Lesson Note: Every child from all age groups is asked to bring one canned good for this lesson. An agency within the community will need to be identified and contacted about receiving this offering. Possible community agencies include homeless shelters, church food pantries, or community ministries.

Lesson 3 – Preschool

WELCOME

As the children come into the class, have them place their canned goods into a basket or box. Have available one or two extra cans for those children who may have forgotten. Thank them for sharing. Have cut-out hearts with “God Loves You” written on them, and ask each child to help you write his/her name on the back of the heart (See Reproducible Sheets – p. 4).

TELL THE STORY (part 1)

The Bible tells us about a woman named Ruth. Her husband had died, and she left her country with her husband's mother, Naomi. They went to the country of Judah, where Naomi had lived before. Ruth and Naomi had no money to buy food, so Ruth went to the fields to glean. She is a gleaner. Does anyone know what that means? Let's go to the kitchen and see if we can figure out what a gleaner is and what a gleaner does.

Supplies Needed

- Corn that is fresh; about 1/2 an ear per child
- Corn that has dark or small spoiled spots on it; about 1/2 an ear per child
- Corn that is older with some dried out kernels; this will be cut off the cob so several ears will be enough.

(In the kitchen: work at a table so that all the children can see)

I have 3 or 4 ears of corn. They are nice plump ears and are probably the ones we would buy in the store. Can Ruth buy these? No...why not? [*Because she has no money.*]

Now I have some other ears of corn (3 or 4 ears of corn that are not as fresh) that don't look as nice because they have some dark spots on them. These ears of corn would not cost as much because they are a little bit spoiled. But if we took the ears and chopped off the dark places, this corn looks good also! But you would still have to have money to buy this corn, so Ruth wouldn't be able to get it.

Finally, I have some corn that is really getting old, it doesn't look very good, does it? This is the corn that probably would have been left in the cornfield for hungry people to pick up. Who do you think would go into a cornfield and pick up this corn? [*Ruth*] That's right; Ruth, and we call people who get the leftover corn out of a field, gleaners. Let's pretend that we have picked this corn and see if we can fix it. If we take all the good pieces off the cob (demonstrate) and put them in this pan, add a little butter, salt and pepper, we can cook them so that they taste wonderful.

Our kitchen helper is going to finish fixing all three kinds of corn and then we can taste them. Let's return to our room and finish our story.

TELL THE STORY (Part 2)

Ruth found grain in the fields that God had told the farmers to leave for those in need. She worked very hard to pick up the grain. That is called gleaning; she was a gleaner. After her work, some of the other workers invited Ruth to eat some bread and drink some wine with them. Then she was no longer hungry, but what about her mother-in-law Naomi? Should Ruth let her go hungry? Ruth brought some of the bread she had been given and the grain she had gathered to Naomi. She shared her food with Naomi.

What a great Bible story. Naomi was happy that Ruth had shared her food. Ruth was happy because she had made Naomi happy by sharing her food. Do you think that God was happy that other people had left grain in the fields for those in need?

PRAYER AND SNACK TIME

Before we have our snack, let's say a prayer that Jesus might have said: *Blessed art thou, Jehovah our God, King of the universe, who bringest forth bread from the earth. Amen.*

SNACK

Corn on the cob and buttered corn; another alternative would be popcorn, but check with parents, as this age group chokes easily.



MISSION EMPHASIS ACTIVITY

Now it's our turn to share. Everyone brought a can of food today. The older children are collecting the cans so that they may go to other children and families that are hungry. (Let each child point to the can they brought.) With everyone sharing, look how many cans we have to give! If you like, you may put your colored hearts in with the cans so that those who get the food will know that God loves them!

MUSIC

"This Little Light of Mine"

CLOSING

The story of Ruth tells us that God loves us and gives us what we need. Sometimes God's gift is people who care for others and also for God's creation. Close with a prayer asking for hearts big enough to help others, to share with others and to care for others as Ruth did.

PRAYER MODEL

God, we have big hearts and we like to share with others. We can share our food with other children so that no one has to be hungry. We share because we love you and we know you love us. Amen.

Gleaning Centers - Good Things That Can Be Used Again

(Explain that recycling is another type of "gleaning.")

- a. Paper Center - use scrap paper for drawing
- b. Playdough Center - combine all the old scraps of playdough where the colors have mixed together and make "Rainbow Art."
- c. Kitchen Center - with plastic dishpan(s), mild soap and towels, let the children wash the plastic utensils used during snack time.
- d. Broken Crayons Center - make art pictures with grated crayons (see Arts & Crafts section.)
- e. Pencil Center - have new erasers for the children to put on used pencils.

Lesson 3 – Kindergarten – Second Grade

WELCOME

As the children come into the class, have them place their canned goods into a basket or box. Thank them for sharing. Have cut-out hearts available for each child; ask them to write “God Loves You” on the heart and sign their name on the back (See Reproducible Sheets – p. 4).

TELL THE STORY (Part 1)

Use the **Preschool model of the story introducing Ruth and the corn**. If your age groups are small, combine them and do the kitchen lesson together.

TELL THE STORY (Part 2) (Return to your classroom.)

Let's finish the story of Ruth and Naomi. Ruth gleaned the fields where Naomi told her to go. She found grain that other pickers had left for those in need and worked very hard to gather up the grain. At the end of her workday, some of the other workers invited Ruth to share their food. Ruth was able to eat and be satisfied, in other words she was no longer hungry. But what about Naomi? How will she eat? Ruth brought home some of the bread that she had been given and the grain that she had gathered that day. She shared her food with Naomi.



MISSION EMPHASIS ACTIVITY

Ruth has done all the work. Why should she share her food with Naomi?
[Because she loved her.] *Why should the farmers have shared their leftover grain with the gleaners?* [They did it because it was a way to show that they loved God and to show God's love to others.] *Why is it important for us to share our food?* [So that people don't have to go hungry, and it is one way to show people that we love them.] *What can you share? Did you bring your can of food this morning? Is that a way for us to share?*

The older children are using these baskets to collect our canned goods so that this food may go to other children and/or families who need it. (Have the children identify their canned good. Let them know where the food is going and what that agency will do with it.) Look at how many cans we have brought; see what happens when we all share! If you like, you may also put your paper hearts in with the food. That way the people who will get the food will know that God loves them!

PRAYER AND SNACK

Before we have our snack, let's pray a prayer that Jesus would have prayed:
Blessed art thou, Jehovah our God, King of the universe, who bringest forth bread from the earth. Amen.

Let's also remember to thank those who cooked our snack!

SNACK

Serve the corn on the cob and the buttered corn; another option for the snack is popcorn (dried corn).

MUSIC

"This Little Light of Mine"

CLOSING

This is a story about God's love, God giving us what we need. People like Ruth, who care for others and also for God's creation, show that love.

Close with a prayer of thanksgiving for people like Ruth. Ask God for help so that we may not waste God's blessings, since everything God gives us is important.

PRAYER MODEL

Make our hearts big enough to help others, to share with others and to care for others as Ruth did. Everything you give us, God, is important; help us not waste your blessings. Amen.

Gleaning Centers - Good Things That Can Be Used Again

(Explain that recycling is another type of "gleaning.")

- a. Paper - make tablets or memo pads out of scratch paper that you find in the Church.
- b. Playdough - combine all the old scraps of playdough where the colors have mixed together and make "Rainbow Art."
- c. Kitchen - Let the children help clean up the kitchen, washing any utensils they have used.
- d. Broken crayons - gather up the broken crayons and make Grated Crayon Pictures (see Arts & Crafts section.)
- e. Pencils - collect the broken pencils out of the sanctuary, sharpen them and put new erasers on them. Return them to the pews.

Lesson 3 – Upper Elementary

WELCOME

As the children come into the classroom, ask them to deposit their canned goods in a basket or box. Thank them for sharing. Let them talk about what they have brought and why.

Is it something that has been on the closet shelf for a long time? Is it something you really like? Or is it something you would rather not have?

READ THE STORY

Have the children read the Scripture from the Book of Ruth (Ruth 2:5-11, 17-18). Have one person look up the word “gleaner” in the dictionary and read it aloud, or use this definition: “To gather grain left by reapers; to collect bit by bit.”

DISCUSS THE STORY

- Why would the reapers leave the grain? *[Check the Scripture: Deuteronomy 24:19.]* God had commanded the people to leave grain for those in need.
- Who do you think would glean food? *[The poor, volunteers to gather food for food pantries/community agencies, environmentalists who do not want to see food go to waste, and animals].*
- What do you think could be gleaned from gardens? Farm fields? Orchards? In the time when Ruth and Naomi lived, the fields were located very near the people. You could easily walk to a grain field, and there were many fields for people to glean. In America today, most of our grain is grown on very large farms that can be far from the cities and even the rural towns. Sometimes, for people who do not have transportation (cars, money for bus tickets, etc.), it's hard to get to a place where you can glean.

Our government has several ways to assist people who need help getting their food. One is food stamps, now called SNAP. SNAP puts money onto cards for people who need food. This money comes from taxes that adults pay, and people use the cards to buy food. The other is the commodities program, which uses tax money to purchase extra food farmers have grown, so it won't get thrown away. The food is then distributed to older people who need it. Supporting these government programs is one way that we as Christians can obey God's command found in Deuteronomy 24:19, “to leave a measure of grain for those in need.” Another way that we as Christians can obey God's command is to support food drives, community ministries, and other ways our church helps to feed hungry people.

Let's go to the kitchen and see how the gleaning process works.

See the Preschool Section on the kitchen activity, but have this group share the responsibility for cleaning and cooking the corn (with supervision). Have your kitchen

helper start water boiling, etc. before the class gets to the kitchen. When they have finished cooking, return to your room for the snack.

PRAYER AND SNACK

Before we have our snack, let's offer an ancient Hebrew prayer that Jesus also used: *Blessed art thou, Jehovah our God, King of the universe, who bringest forth bread from the earth. Amen.*

SNACK

Corn on the cob and buttered corn; popcorn is another good alternative (dried corn).

MISSION EMPHASIS ACTIVITY:

Everyone in all the classes was asked to bring a can of food today. This is a way for all of us to model sharing. I am asking you to collect the food from the classrooms and bring it back here.

Discuss with the Upper Elementary children where the collected food should go. Decide how and when it is going to get delivered. If the children can be a part of the process all the way to the delivery point, that would be especially instructive. (Note: the cans of food are needed for the next lesson, so do not plan the delivery until after that.)

OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR CHILDREN IN MISSION

(See Mission Activities section.)



MISSION FOCUS

One of the ways to battle hunger in our world is to work at conservation and not waste the blessings we are given. The Presbyterian Church works with other churches to support world responses to hunger and food production. Supporting sustainable development and conservation of resources both here in the United States and in the wider world is an important way to care for others and show God's love to them in a very direct way. What are some local groups that practice "gleaning" in your area? Is there a "Harvest" group that channels leftover restaurant supplies to homeless shelters? Is there a food pantry or community ministry that helps us share food with others?

ROCK SCULPTURES

(See Arts & Crafts section.)

MUSIC

"This Little Light of Mine"

CLOSING

We have come together today as a group of people to help another group of people – the hungry. As Ruth did, we have gleaned food to share with others. God loves all of God's people, and it is important for us to spread that love around.

Offer a prayer asking God to give us big, rich hearts so that we may use our energies to share our blessings with others. Ask God to help us make this a world where no one has too much and no one has too little.

PRAYER MODEL

Make our hearts big enough, God, so that we can share our blessings with others. Let us be examples to share the resources of the world as Ruth did: to care for one another as God has commanded us to do. Help us to create a world where no one has too much and no one too little. Amen.

Lesson 4 – Reflection

“You give them something to eat.” (Matthew 14:16)

Theme: Our responsibility as individuals to share our blessings with others.

Scripture: Matthew 14:16, John 6:9

Reflection

In the Matthew passage we find a very intentional Jesus, who is being extremely clear about his expectations of us: You give them something to eat. We have personal responsibility as followers of Jesus to feed the hungry, to share our bread, and to encourage others to share their bread also. The passage from the Gospel of John highlights an individual who took Jesus' command seriously – a young child.

Children have always known that they are capable of sharing, they take seriously the responsibility that Jesus gives to them and to us. Children are capable of being involved in outreach, in ministry on behalf of and with others. All children's ministry programs can include community outreach. Children can put pennies in their One Great Hour of Sharing banks, gather food items for distribution, or even write letters to Congress.

The objective of this lesson is to lift up the young boy who stepped forward and shared what he had. This is the child who responded to the call of the Gospel to give them something to eat. For those of us who work with children, it is a reminder of the importance of children's faith to our world.

Lesson 4 – Preschool

If it is possible to go outside for the telling of this lesson, that would add drama. Otherwise, try to arrange the room in a way that would evoke the image of sitting on a hillside beside the sea.

WELCOME

Have Paper Bag Fish prepared for each child and materials for them to decorate their fish (see Arts & Crafts section.) Hang a fish net – an old volleyball net works well – in your room and put the fish on the net with paper clips.

(As the children travel to the hillside, supply each child with a bag of snack food – individual bags containing fish crackers or small pretzels or raisins or nuts or marshmallows, etc. Have small paper cups available to serve their snacks in and a larger bowl to mix all the snacks together.)

TELL THE STORY (Part 1)

Let's go sit on the hillside and pretend we are waiting to see Jesus. In our story today we are going to hear about Jesus and the loaves and the fishes. Many other people are here waiting to see Jesus and hear him tell a story. While we are waiting let's play a game.

GAME: Let's Go Fishing

- Create a "lake" – a dishpan, small child's swimming pool, blue round tablecloth, etc.
- Cut out the enclosed fish patterns from construction paper or poster board, and place a paper clip on the "nose" of each fish.
- Make fishing poles from small tree branches or dowel rods, and attach a string to the end of the pole. Attach a magnet to the end of the string.
- Place the fish in the lake, and let the children go fishing!

TELL THE STORY (Part 2)

Here comes Jesus from the boat he has been sailing in. Jesus is going to visit the sick; they have made a long trip just to see and touch Jesus. Just like us, Jesus loves them. So we are going to wait while Jesus puts his hands on those that are sick. When he touches them, they are going to feel better, to feel loved. While we wait, let's sing a song!

MUSIC

"Jesus Loves the Little Children"

"Jesus Loves Me" #304, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#188 in *Glory to God*)

TELL THE STORY (Part 3)

When we get back to the hillside, everyone find a comfortable place to sit. Jesus' friends, the disciples, must be getting hungry. They tell Jesus that it is getting late and they should leave and find something to eat in the town. But Jesus knows that there are still many people waiting to see him. He tells his friends, "You give them something to eat."

A young boy walks up to the disciples holding 2 small fish and 5 loaves of bread. He is giving his whole lunch to the disciples to help feed the hungry people. The disciples take this food to Jesus. Jesus blesses it and gives it back to his disciples so they can feed the people. But how will 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish feed so many people?

PRAYER AND SNACK

Maybe we can help. When we followed Jesus to the hillside we each brought something. Let's get out our bags of snacks and with a prayer ask Jesus to bless our food:

Blessed art thou, Jehovah our God, King of the universe, who bringest forth bread from the earth. Amen.

Like the young boy with the loaves and the fish, Jesus will bless our food. Let's put everything we have into this one basket.

(Mix all the snacks together.)

Each of you take a cup full. We can have our snack.

(Provide something to drink.)

We all have plenty to eat and everyone has been fed. And we have some left to share. God created the earth to give us food, and Jesus tells us to give hungry people something to eat. When we share what God has given us, Jesus blesses us and there is enough for everyone! Two fish and five loaves – a gift from a young boy – is enough!

Journey to the Hillside Learning Centers

On the Hill

Parts 1 and 2 of the preschool story text. Have feltboard and cutouts of Jesus, boat, disciples, crowd and young boy with the loaves and fishes. Let the children manipulate the figures to tell the story. Or use "Miracle Lunch," Clip'n Tell Bible Stories, Lois Keffer, Group - Loveland Co., 1995.

Waiting for Jesus

Sing "Jesus Loves the Little Children"

"Jesus Loves Me" - #304, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#188 in *Glory to God*)

Near the Water

Let's Go Fishing (See Preschool Lesson 4.)

Waiting for Jesus

Paper Bag Fish (See Arts & Crafts section.)

Feeding of the 5,000

Have small bread loaves, muffins or doughnuts (several good varieties, but not enough of any one kind for one for each child) that the children can break apart and share around or use the Snack Mixture from Part 3 of the Preschool story text.

REMINDER

For the next lesson, everyone is asked to bring a piece of fruit – a banana or an apple or an orange. You decide which fruit you like best and bring it next time.

CLOSING

God made the earth to give God's people all the food we need. Jesus tells us to share our food with others so that no one is hungry. It can be done when we act like the young boy with the 5 loaves of bread and the 2 fish, sharing all that God gives to us.

Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for children around the world who share what God has given to them. Reinforce how important children are to Jesus.

PRAYER MODEL

Jesus, we thank you for every child in this world. Help all children know that you love them and that, like the young boy with the loaves and the fishes, they can share what you have given them. Help each of us to be a good follower of you, Jesus. Amen.

Lesson 4 – Kindergarten - Second Grade

If it is possible to go outside for the telling of this lesson, that would add drama; or try to arrange the room in a way that would evoke the image of sitting on a hillside beside the sea.

WELCOME

As the children enter, give each one a puzzle board or a sheet of construction paper with a drawing of a fish on it (See Reproducible Sheets – p. 6). Let them color the fish with markers or crayons or paint the fish shapes with glue that has been diluted with water (just enough water to be able to “paint” the glue). Have colored sand available and a sand box – a cardboard box with sides to keep the sand in the box. Place the fish puzzle or picture in the box and sprinkle with the sand, then gently shake off the excess sand. Let dry.

(As the children travel to the hillside for the story, supply each child with a bag of snacks – individual bags containing fish crackers or small pretzels or raisins or nuts or marshmallows, etc. Have a larger bowl in which to mix the snacks and small paper cups for serving the snack.)

TELL THE STORY (Part 1)

If you are going to be outside, have a space prepared with a picnic blanket or other blankets upon which to sit. If you are going to be inside, have available: a green rug, an assortment of pillows, a blanket, or carpet squares.

This is the story of the Feeding of the 5,000. People have gathered on a hillside to see Jesus, to hear Jesus talk, to have Jesus touch them. Jesus is coming with his friends, the disciples. Let's create a space for us to sit and wait for Jesus.

There is a sea near the hillside; this is a place where people can fish. Let's create this space also. (Have available: a round blue tablecloth, a dish pan, or a child's plastic swimming pool.) While we are waiting for Jesus, let's play a game.

GAME: Let's Go Fishing

- Create a "lake" – a dishpan, small child's swimming pool, blue round tablecloth, etc.
- Cut out the enclosed fish patterns from construction paper or poster board, and place a paper clip on the "nose" of each fish.
- Make fishing poles from small tree branches or dowel rods, and attach a string to the end of the pole. Attach a magnet to the end of the string.
- Place the fish in the lake, and let the children go fishing!

TELL THE STORY (Part 2)

Let's return to the hillside, and everyone find a comfortable place to sit. This is a wonderful space for us to wait to hear Jesus. Here comes Jesus off the boat. Jesus is going to visit the sick; they have made a long trip to see and touch Jesus. Just like us, Jesus loves them. So we are going to wait while Jesus puts his hands on those that are sick. When he touches them, they are going to feel better, and they will feel loved. While we wait, let's sing a song.

MUSIC

“Jesus Loves the Little Children”

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” #514, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#526 in *Glory to God*)

“Heleluyan” #595, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#642 in *Glory to God*)

TELL THE STORY (Part 3)

Everyone has been sitting here a long time; it is getting late. There are many people still waiting to hear Jesus. The disciples must be getting hungry; they tell Jesus to send the people away so that everyone can go get something to eat. But Jesus does not want to send the people away. He tells the disciples, “You give them something to eat.” Jesus' disciples don't know where they are going to find food for all these people. It is a problem!

A young boy walks up to the disciples and hands them his lunch – 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. The young boy's answer to the problem is to offer all that he has to share. Jesus takes the young boy's gift and Jesus blesses this food. He hands the young boy's lunch to the disciples and they begin to give the food to the crowd of people. But how will 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish feed so many people? Is it enough?

PRAYER AND SNACK

When we came to this place to hear Jesus, we each brought something. If we do what the young boy did, then we will share all we have. Let's ask Jesus to bless our food:

Blessed art thou, Jehovah our God, King of the universe, who bringest forth bread from the earth. Amen.

Now if each of you will pour your snack bag into the basket, we can all share our food. (Serve the snack mixture in the paper cups; provide something to drink.)

We have all had plenty to eat and everyone has been fed. And we have some left to share. Jesus has blessed our food and our sharing. The young boy gave his offering, his gift, and helped to solve the problem. Jesus knows that children are helpers; you can do important things! Jesus tells us, you give them something to eat. Jesus means you and like the young boy, you can do it!

TELL THE STORY (Part 4)

When Jesus took the bread and the fish that the boy had shared, he said a prayer, and then he gave the food to his friends. They passed it around to all the people – over 5,000 of them! Everyone had enough to eat and there was some left over! It was a miracle – a very special thing that Jesus did. And just think, it started with one boy sharing his lunch.

REMINDER

For our last lesson, the next one, each one of you is asked to bring one piece of fruit – a banana, an apple or orange. Bring a piece of fruit that you like.

CLOSING

Jesus is depending on you to make this a good world for all God's people. You can do things to help. It may not seem important to share, but it can make a big difference. Sharing can solve a problem. And if someone sees you sharing, they might want to do that too. When everyone shares their food, their money, and their time, there will be no hunger in this world.

PRAYER MODEL

Jesus, we are your children and you bless us. Help us to share our blessings with others. Help us step forward like the young boy with the 5 loaves and 2 fish and solve the problem. Amen.

Journey to the Hillside Learning Centers:

On the Hill

Parts 1 and 2 of the Kindergarten-Second Grade story text. Have feltboard and cutouts of Jesus, boat, disciples, crowd and young boy with the loaves and fishes. Let the children manipulate the figures to tell the story. Or use "Miracle Lunch", Clip 'n Tell Bible Stories, Lois Keffer, Group - Loveland Co., 1995.

Waiting for Jesus

Sing "Jesus Loves the Little Children"

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

#514, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#526 in *Glory to God*)

"Heleluyan"

#595, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#642 in *Glory to God*)

Near the Water

Let's Go Fishing (See Kindergarten – Second Grade Lesson 4.)

Waiting for Jesus

Fish Puzzles (See Arts & Crafts section.)

Feeding of the 5,000

Have small bread loaves, muffins or doughnuts (several good varieties, but not enough of any one kind for one for each child) that the children can break apart and share around; or use the Snack Mixture from Part 3 of the Kindergarten-Second Grade story text. Provide baskets, loaves of bread and plastic or cutout fish so that the children can dramatize the story. Feel free to add "headscarves" and "robes" (simple rectangles of cloth that can be tied or pinned on) so they can make a play.

Lesson 4 – Upper Elementary

WELCOME

As the children come into the room, give each one a grocery bag, a shopping list and a plain white label (size 2" x 4"). The shopping list should have all the ingredients needed to make a healthy meal. Have them make a bar code on the white label out of the Bible verse: "You give them something to eat." (See Arts & Crafts section.)

READ THE STORY

Read the Scripture: Matthew 14:14-21

DISCUSSION

This passage is sometimes called a miracle story. Let's look at some important parts of it. First our Bible verse: "You give them something to eat." Who is Jesus talking to? Jesus is very clear that you have responsibility for feeding the hungry.

Let's also read another Scripture: John 6:9. (Have someone read the passage.)

In John's gospel, we learn that the 5 loaves of bread and the 2 fishes are an offering from a young boy. This gives a new spin on our verse from Matthew; the "you" is not always a parent or an adult. The "you" can be a kid; and that kid is you!

Jesus blesses the food: "*Blessed art thou, Jehovah our God, King of the universe, who bringest forth bread from the earth.*" Jesus calls upon God, our Creator, to once more give us what we need. Remember the Old Testament story of the Israelites and God's promise to give them what they needed? In offering this blessing, Jesus is reminding us of God's covenant, God's promise to always be with God's people.

After the blessing, Jesus gives the food to the disciples and they pass it on to the crowd. This is important – Jesus is asking others to feed the people because, in sharing their food, they are acting out what it means to be a believer in Christ.

God promises to give us all that we need. One way that this happens in our complicated world is for us to do as Jesus teaches ...feed the hungry. We become God's agents by sharing what we have with others who may not have enough. When we are able to share – sometimes that means doing without – then a miracle can happen!

PRAYER AND SNACK

(Provide a snack such as small pretzels or raisins, miniature marshmallows, or small chocolate or colored candies each in separate little baggies, then distribute them so that most children have one bag, but make sure at least two children do not have anything.)

Before we have a prayer and eat our snack, we have a situation we need to deal with. Is everyone here hungry for snack? Does everyone have some snack? [NO!] Well, how can we solve the problem?

(Encourage the children to share their snacks, one equitable way to do that is for everyone to dump their snack into a bowl and make a trail mix and then have the children take some

snack in a small paper cup. The children may come up with other ways to share; encourage their problem solving, but do not spend too much time on this task.)

Let's pray: *Blessed art thou, Jehovah our God, King of the universe, who bringest forth bread from the earth. Amen.*

MISSION EMPHASIS ACTIVITY (Part 2)

We still have all the canned goods that we collected. Each of you has a grocery bag and a list of food items suggested for feeding the hungry. I am going to give each of you a chart of the 5 Basic Food Groups (See Reproducible Sheets – Food Guide Pyramid, p. 10). Attach your bar code to the grocery bag. As a very first step, check the date on the food items to make sure that they are still good.

Your assignment is to come up with a complete meal in your grocery bag. If possible, you need to have something in the bag from each of the 5 food groups. You may need to trade back and forth to get complete meals, especially protein. If we are going to feed the hungry, we need to make sure that we give good food, food that helps make healthy bodies. Good food – not just leftovers or things that other people don't want. If possible, include some nutritional treats as well. All of God's children like snacks!

Discuss the project with the children; was it easy? Difficult? How many had protein in their meals? Identify those sources of protein. (Protein is the thing least provided in canned good drives.) Ask the children, if they were going to receive this meal, what would they like to add to it? Discuss ways to get the canned goods to the community agency chosen. Ask for volunteers to go and deliver it.

ART/CRAFT ACTIVITY

Fish Puzzles (See Reproducible Sheets – p. 6). Let them color the fish with markers or crayons or paint the fish shapes with glue that has been diluted with water (just enough water to be able to “paint” the glue). Have colored sand available and a sand box – a cardboard box with sides to keep the sand in the box. Place the fish puzzle or picture in the box and sprinkle with the sand, then gently shake off the excess sand. Let dry.

MUSIC

“Here I Am Lord” #525, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#69 in *Glory to God*)

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” #514, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#526 in *Glory to God*)



MISSION FOCUS

Often communities around the world say instead of receiving meals, they would like to work to grow their own food. The Presbyterian Hunger Program and our partners help by providing seeds and tools for gardens, goats for fresh milk, or chickens for eggs. Sometimes local laws need to be changed or enforced so people don't have their land and resources taken away, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program offers support as the people speak up for their rights. These are ways we follow Jesus' command to “Give them something to eat,” even when we are not near the people in need.

REMINDER

For the last lesson, everyone is asked to bring a piece of fruit – a banana or an apple or an orange. You decide what you like best and bring it next time.

CLOSING

Let's close this lesson with a prayer.

Focus on the balance that God has provided to feed minds and bodies and on the need for all children to have good, wholesome food. Ask for God's blessing, not only upon the food, but also upon those that seek to share the food with others.

PRAYER MODEL

God, we ask you to bless this food as we try to hear Jesus' words, "You feed the hungry." We give this food with love so that all God's children may have healthy bodies and minds. Help us to share in Jesus' ministry to make the world a good place for all to live. Amen.

Lesson 5 – Reflection

“Praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.” (Acts 2:47a)

Theme: A model for the church – the common good.

Scripture: Acts 2:44-47a

Reflection

This passage from the Acts of the Apostles describes the new Church – a model of the common good. From the beginning, God saw that it was good and endowed the creation to humankind with everything in common. God promises to provide for us as much as each of us needs. Then God lifts up people like Ruth as models of sharing. Jesus calls us to give them something to eat. And finally, the young Church provides one example of how to live out these teachings. The first Christians held everything in common and even sold their possessions to give to others.

Having the goodwill of all the people is certainly a goal towards which to strive. The goal of this lesson is to use the new Church as a model for the churches of the new millennium, a Church that has an attitude of personal responsibility to the creation and to all of God's children. In our consumer oriented culture the concept of self-denial to assure the common good is not a popular lifestyle choice. Nonetheless, it is the early Church's way of living out the call of Jesus the Christ.

The Church continues to be an agent for the goodwill of all the people. One example of that is through the work of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the One Great Hour of Sharing. The ministries of the OGHS are ministries of caring and compassion. Letting people determine their own needs and helping them succeed is the OGHS model. It is a model of the Church continuing to be an agent for the common good.

>Note: Each child was asked to bring a single piece of fruit for this session. The teacher might want to bring a few extra pieces of different fruits in case everyone brings a banana! Have a helper available to gather the fruit and chop it up for fruit salad at snack time.

Lesson 5 – Preschool

WELCOME

As the children come into the classroom have them put their piece of fruit in a bowl. Ask them to begin coloring the cut-out fruit patterns for their “fruit baskets” (see Arts & Crafts section.)

TELL THE STORY (Sit in a circle)

This is a story about all the people. Can you name some of the people in your family? How about your friends? Can you name some people in the Church? That's a lot of people.

Our story today tells us that all the people who believed in Jesus came together at the Church – just like we do on Sunday mornings. They heard the stories of Jesus – just like we do in Church. They sang together and praised God.

Let's do that, too. Let's stand up and sing:

“Praise Ye The Lord” - #258, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#633 in *Glory to God*)

In our story today, the Bible tells us that the people in the Church “had all things in common.” Everyone needed a place to live, food to eat, and clothes to wear. Some people had more money than others. So the people in the first Church collected all their money and gave each person what they needed.

GAME

Let's play a game with pretend money (use pennies or checkers) and see how this works. I am going to give each of you a coin; one to some of you, three to some of you and five to some of you. (Distribute the coins.) See if you can count what you have. Now I am going to ask you to put your coins in the basket. (Divide by the number of children and give each child three coins. Leave three additional coins in the basket.)

Each of you is going to get some coins; now count how many you have. Does everyone have three coins? Good, one coin is for a place to live, one coin is for food, and one coin is for clothes. You have what you need to live.

What about the coins left in the basket? There is one for (name a child) to buy a new pair of shoes. There is one for (name another child) to buy medicine. There is one more for (name still another child) to get eyeglasses.

That is what the people in the first Christian churches did. They shared everything. Each person gave what they had, and people received what they needed. Sometimes they even gave all their coins to people outside the Church who were very needy. Let's go to the table for our snack.

PRAYER AND SNACK

Remember this morning that you each brought a piece of fruit. Even if someone forgot, that's no problem because we are going to share all we have. While we were hearing our story and playing our game, our helper took our fruit and put it in a common bowl. Now we each have fruit salad! Let's say a prayer and have our snack ...

Blessed art thou, Jehovah our God, King of the universe, who bringest forth bread from the earth. Amen.

SNACK: Fruit Salad

Each piece of fruit that we have eaten has a different name (name the fruits). Each one has a different smell and a different taste. God is absolutely wonderful to give us these fruits!

God loves us, so God gives us all that we need. God also gives us rules to help us grow up to be a loving people. God wants us to love – to care about – all the children in God's world. We are now going to make fruit baskets. The pieces of fruit have God's rules printed on them. As you paste your fruit in the basket, I am going to read the Bible verses which tell us God's rules.

FRUIT BASKET:

(See Arts & Crafts section for instructions and patterns.)

Have the children paste the fruit in the basket.

Apple: “And God saw that it was good.” (Genesis 1:12)
God planned a good world with many treasures for all.

Grapes: “Gather as much of it as each of you needs.” (Exodus 16:16)
God promises to love us, to feed us.

Banana: “May the Lord reward you for your deeds.” (Ruth 2: 12)
We are to care for one another, as Ruth did for Naomi.

Pear: “You give them something to eat.” (Matthew 14:16)
Jesus calls us to feed those that are hungry.

Orange: “Praising God and having the goodwill of all.” (Acts 2:47a)
We thank God for all we have, and we share everything.

CLOSING

Today we have shared all that we have. We remember that God loves us and will give us what we need. The church is a good place for us to come and share what we have; others will share with us, also. Our Church can share with other churches. Then we all become God's church!

Offer a prayer to God in thanks for all that God gives to us; good tasting fruit in bright colors and friends to share it with. Thank God for God's love to children everywhere.

PRAYER MODEL

God, we thank you for bananas and oranges and apples. Like fruit, people are a blessing, too. You give us a wonderful world full of treats in which to live; help us to share those with all your children. Amen.

Learning Centers

Community

Have cutouts of people, either from magazines or simple shapes from construction paper and let the children glue these people into the pews of their church picture (draw simple lines on a piece of paper to represent the pews or let the children draw their own church.) Help them label the people with names of those that they know.

Music

"Praise Ye The Lord" #258, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#633 in *Glory to God*)

Game

Using simple counters let the children divide the "money" in the basket evenly so that each person has enough money to pay one piece for housing, one for food, and one for clothing. If there are counters left over in the basket encourage the children to place those counters on pictures of medicine, eyeglasses, shoes, or needy people. Talk about how the early church shared everything in common and worked for the good of all.

Snack: Fruit Salad

Art

Have the materials available for the Fruit Basket activity (see Arts & Crafts section.)

Kitchen Center

Provide pieces of plastic fruit (and other food) for the children to play with in the home living area. Talk with them about the fruit being a blessing from God. Encourage sharing of the toys.

Lesson 5 – Kindergarten - Second Grade

WELCOME

As the children come into the room, ask them to put their piece of fruit into a bowl. Give each child a sheet of patterns for the Fruit Basket Windssock (see Arts & Crafts section); have them begin to color and cut out the patterns.

TELL THE STORY

Today's story is about Christ's church on earth. Let's read the story from the Bible. (Acts 2:44-47a). The Bible tells us that the people who believed in Jesus came together and made a Church. They did a lot of the same things that we do on Sunday mornings. Can you name some of the things that they did and that we do? [*Pray, sing songs, give an offering.*]

But some of their ways of doing things in their Church were different. One big difference is that they held all things in common. They gave all they had to those who needed help. Let's play a game with money and see if we can figure out what it means to "hold all things in common."

GAME

I am going to give each of you some money. (For this age group, real money is more effective, \$1 bills would be most impressive, but quarters would also do.) One to some of you, three to some of you, and five to some of you. Count what you have. Some of you have more money than others. Is that fair?

In Jesus' new Church, the people had a different way of handling their money and their possessions. I'm going to collect your money in this basket. Now we have all the money for all the people.

I am going to give each of you three... (coins or bills. Distribute the money leaving three pieces of money in the basket.) Each of you now has as much as you need: one for housing, one for food and one for clothing. What about the money left in the basket? In the new Church, these would be given to someone who had a need. One might be given to (name a child) to buy a pair of shoes. Another would be given to (name another child) so that he/she could buy medicine. The third would be given to (name still another child) so that he/she could get his/her glasses fixed. Or perhaps all the money left in the basket would be given to people outside the Church who were hungry or cold. That is the common good – everyone has what they need.

PRAYER AND SNACK

It's almost snack time. If you remember, everyone was asked to bring a piece of fruit today. Even if someone forgot, it really wouldn't matter, because we are going to share all that we have. While we were reading the Scripture, our helper took our fruit, cut it and put it in one big bowl. Now we each have the same fruit as we share with one another. Let's say our ancient Hebrew blessing:

Blessed art thou, Jehovah our God, King of the universe, who bringest forth bread from the earth. Amen.

SNACK: Fruit Salad

Each piece of fruit that we have eaten has a different name (name the fruits). Each one has a different smell, a different color, a different taste. God loves us, so God has blessed our world with these special treats.

God loves us, so God has given us all that we need, including rules to help us grow up and be a loving, caring people. God wants us to care about all the children in God's creation.

FRUIT WINDSOCK

(See Arts & Crafts section for instructions and patterns.)

For our fruit windsock, the pieces of fruit have God's rules printed on them. As you create your windsock, I am going to read the Bible verses that state God's rules.

Apple: "And God saw that it was good." (Genesis 1:12)
God planned a good world with many treasures for all.

Grapes: "Gather as much of it as each of you needs." (Exodus 16:16)
God promises to love us, to feed us.

Banana: "May the Lord reward you for your deeds." (Ruth 2: 12)
We are to care for one another, as Ruth did for Naomi.

Pear: "You give them something to eat." (Matthew 14:16)
Jesus calls us to feed those that are hungry.

Orange: "Praising God and having the goodwill of all." (Acts 2:47a)
We thank God for all we have, and we share everything.

MUSIC

"Praise Ye The Lord" #258, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#633 in *Glory to God*)

"Every Time I Feel The Spirit" #315, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#66 in *Glory to God*)

"Fairest Lord Jesus" #306, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#630 in *Glory to God*)

CLOSING

Offer a prayer reflecting the joy of having a church – a place where we can come together to pray and listen to God's word and sing. Reflect upon the church's willingness to help those in need, which gives us a chance to share all that we have.

PRAYER MODEL

God, we thank you for our church where people can come together to pray and sing and praise you. We thank you for our colorful world filled with good things to eat. We thank you for your rules that remind us that this world is for all God's children. There is plenty for everyone; help us share. Amen.

Learning Centers

Community

Have cutouts of people, either from magazines or simple shapes from construction paper, and let the children glue these people into the pews of their church picture (draw simple lines on a piece of paper to represent the pews or let the children draw their own church.) Help them label the people with names of those that they know.

Alternately, go into the sanctuary and talk about the people who sit in the pews, their names, the people who participate in the front and their names.

Music

"Praise Ye The Lord" #258, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#633 in *Glory to God*)

"Every Time I Feel The Spirit" #315, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#66 in *Glory to God*)

"Fairest Lord Jesus" #306, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#630 in *Glory to God*)

Game

Using simple counters, let the children divide the "money" in the basket evenly so that each person has enough money to pay one piece for housing, one for food, and one for clothing. If there are counters left over in the basket, encourage the children to place those counters on pictures of medicine, eyeglasses, shoes, or needy people. Talk about how the early church shared everything in common and worked for the good of all.

Snack: Fruit Salad

Art

Have the materials available for the Fruit Basket Windsock activity (see Arts & Crafts section.)

Activity

This activity is a take-off on musical chairs and will hopefully show the difference between competing for resources (chairs) and sharing resources. Play musical chairs in the traditional fashion. Have enough chairs for every child, play the music, stop it and have them all sit down. On the next round remove one chair, repeat the process, however, as the children sit down, one child will be left out, they are out of the game. Each round will eliminate one child until there is only one child and one chair left.

Now play musical chairs in a different fashion: start the same way, but as a chair is removed, the children must share the remaining chairs rather than eliminating a child. By the end of this game there will be only one chair and the children must all cooperate to find a way to sit on it!

Reflect with the children about which version of the game showed sharing and holding all things in common.

Lesson 5 – Upper Elementary

>Note: This lesson gives an opportunity for this age group to experience two things. First, what it means to make decisions on behalf of others – the responsibility involved in their actions. Secondly, as a by-product, it serves as an introduction to the workings of a Presbyterian congregation. It is also possible that the definition of a mission project may come out of this exercise. It would be a way that children can become involved in helping others by sharing their resources. Be prepared and encourage them.

THE STORY

Read the Scripture text: Acts 2:44-47a

Questions for discussion: **What is the common good? What does this mean to you? How different from what we do today was the first Church's response to sharing their wealth?**

In our congregation, we give money to people all over the world to feed the hungry, provide clean water, help build houses, teach people to read, etc. We share the money that God has blessed us with for “the common good.” Sometimes that means we might have to do without what we want, so that others can have what they really need. Here is your assignment.

OUTREACH ACTIVITY

The Church has a mission fund in the amount of \$5,000. The Outreach Committee has recommended that the entire \$5,000 be used for the common good: \$2,500 to people outside the United States, \$1,500 to people within the U.S., and \$1,000 to people within our community. The Session has received requests from 15 groups of people asking for assistance. There is also a request for \$2,000 to update the playground equipment for the Preschool and a proposal from the Youth Group for \$1,000 to buy a new pool table for the Youth Room. You are the Session and you must decide where the money is to go and how much money each group is to receive.

You have some choices:

- You can give money – the full amount asked or a portion of the amount asked.
- You can not give money.
- You can ask volunteers to work on a project rather than giving money – people can help build a Habitat house; you can ask volunteers to help tutor children. You can ask for donations to buy a goat for Honduras rather than fund the request out of the \$5,000.

>Note: If the children want to work in a large group. appoint someone to help keep them on task. You might want to appoint a recorder. You can also divide them into smaller groups and then convene the larger group for reporting.

Church

Playground
\$2,000

Pool Table/Youth
\$1,000

U.S. Based Projects

Hurricane Relief
Tennessee –
Food for victims
\$500

Feeding Program
Salaries for workers in after-
school children’s program
on Indian reservation
\$2,500

Job Training
Washington, D.C.
Poor teenage mothers
\$1,000

Soup Kitchen
Chicago Food Pantry
Anything you can give!

**Bread for the World
Support** – Lobby congress
for a better Food Stamp
Program
\$250

Local Community

Habitat House Building
Permanent storage cabinet
with lock for tools
\$2,000

Literacy Program
Hispanic for Hispanic
women – purchase of
supplies
\$1,200

Senior Citizen Feeding
Replacement of 2 insulated
food carriers for
Meals-on-Wheels
\$1,000

Food Bank
Purchase supplemental
protein items to compliment
donated goods
\$1,000

Homelessness Shelter
Replace mattresses in
men’s shelter
\$1,200

International

Haiti
Food for orphanage
\$2,000

Africa
Pipe and supplies for a
water system; labor to be
done by Africans
\$2,500

Asia
Support for a volunteer to
train others to keep babies
healthy and well-nourished
\$1,500

South America
To provide a heifer to begin
a herd of cows to provide
milk for village
\$350

Central America
For loans for women to start
small businesses
\$1,000

PRAYER AND SNACK

Before we enjoy our snack – guess what it's going to be? [Fruit Salad] Right ... it's fruit salad ... If you remember, everyone was asked to bring a piece of fruit today. Even if someone forgot it really doesn't matter because we are going to share all that we have. While we were working on our project, our helper took our fruit, cut it and put it in a common bowl. Now we all have the same fruit as we share with one another. Let's pray the prayer that Jesus would have prayed:

Blessed art thou, Jehovah our God, King of the universe, who bringest forth bread from the earth. Amen.

MUSIC

“Praise Ye The Lord” #258, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#633 in *Glory to God*)

“Every Time I Feel The Spirit” #315, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#66 in *Glory to God*)

“Canto de Esperanza” #432, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#765 in *Glory to God*)

“Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!” #430, *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (#305 in *Glory to God*)

ENERGY RELEASER ACTIVITY

This activity is a take-off on musical chairs and will hopefully show the difference between competing for resources (chairs) and sharing resources. Play musical chairs in the traditional fashion. Have enough chairs for every child, play the music, stop it and have them all sit down. On the next round remove one chair, repeat the process, however, as the children sit down, one child will be left out, they are out of the game. Each round will eliminate one child until there is only one child and one chair left.

Now play musical chairs in a different fashion: start the same way, but as a chair is removed, the children must share the remaining chairs rather than eliminating a child. By the end of this game there will be only one chair, and the children must all cooperate to find a way to sit on it!

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Which game was competitive? Which game was cooperative? Which game did you like better and why? Which game reflects the early Church's way of holding all things in common?

Now imagine that the resource that was slowly being taken away was the supply of food available instead of the supply of chairs. Which game model would be fairer for the distribution of food? Would your response be different if you had been the winner of the first game?



MISSION FOCUS

We have been talking about the problems of hunger in the world. Many people do not have enough to eat even though we have been working hard to feed all of God's children. There is a need to increase food supplies and to make sure that everyone gets their fair share of the food supply. Although many problems exist in fighting world hunger, there are many who are trying to follow God's rules and are working on ways to feed everyone. Each of us can be a follower of God's rules and take action against hunger. We can work directly in our community to support ministries and food pantries – not only with our canned goods, but also with our prayers and volunteer time. We can work in the wider world through supporting The Presbyterian Hunger Program through our donations to One Great Hour of Sharing. Together we can do as God asks and work to end hunger.

CLOSING

Discuss with the children how difficult it can be to make decisions for others, especially with limited resources! Offer a prayer asking God to encourage honesty and fairness in those who act on behalf of others every day. Thank God for the courage of children and youth all over the world who act out the Gospel in their daily lives. Ask God's continued blessing upon the Church that partners with people to make their lives better.

PRAYER MODEL

God, as we come together like fruit salad, we thank you that each of us brings something to this world. There are many in our world whose voices don't get heard, who do not have fruit salad to eat, who have to work rather than play on the playground. As we share our blessings, help us also share our voices to make this a better world for all God's people. Amen.

Arts & Crafts

Arts & Crafts for Lesson 1

SMILEY-FACE (Preschool)

Materials Needed: Reproduce pattern with outline of a large black circle on yellow construction paper – one for each child.

Have them turn the circle into a "smiley face."

TERRARIUMS (Kindergarten – Second Grade)

Materials Needed:

- Gravel*
- Charcoal*
- Sand
- Dirt
- Glass jar or plastic liter bottle
- Small plants

In either a large glass jar or a liter soft drink bottle (with spout cut off), take a plastic spoon and put in a layer of gravel, charcoal, sand and dirt. Have the children plant small lichens, mosses, ferns and/or plants in the soil layer. (Check with members of your congregation or school to see what kind of "cuttings" they could offer for the terrariums.) Water and cover with the jar lid or plastic wrap; place where the terrarium will get about 1 hour of sunlight per day.

**Available at pet stores where they have aquarium supplies.*

SAND ART (Upper Elementary)

Materials Needed:

- 1 - 8oz clear plastic drinking cup
- Spoon for each child
- Suggested colors of sand for designated days:
 - Day #1 - black/white (night/day)
 - Day #2 - blue (sky)
 - Day #3 - brown/turquoise (earth/seas)
 - Day #4 - gold/yellow (sun/moon)
 - Day #5 - gray/green (sea creatures)
 - Day #6 - 2 shades for skin color (humankind)

Teaspoon by teaspoon, layer the colors of sand in the cup. Let the children know that there are no guidelines for this – this is art! They are the creator, so anything goes as long as it stays in the cup.

Arts & Crafts for Lesson 2

SOAP SCULPTURE PICTURES (Preschool; Kindergarten – Second Grade)

Materials Needed:

- 1 cup soap granules
- 1/2 cup water
- Wire Whisk
- Construction paper - dark blue/black
- Paint brushes

Pour granules into large bowl. Gradually add water and whip with wire whisk. When mixture is thick and fluffy, children can smear or sculpt on dark construction paper. Have them create their own vision of manna.

TAMBOURINES (All Ages)

Materials Needed:

- Small disposable foil pie tins or paper plates or plastic plates in colors/2 per child
- Gift wrap ribbon – 18" lengths/about 6 per child
- Plastic lacing
- Scotch Tape
- Stapler
- Dried peas or beans
- Glue
- Circle cut out of construction paper with Bible verse printed on it: *"Gather as much as each of you needs."* Exodus 16:16 (pattern included)
- Hole punch

Put two plates together and pre-punch holes around edges so that the plates can be laced together. Cut gift wrap ribbon in 18" lengths. Have each child take a matching set of plates. Have them tape the ribbon around the rim inside one pie plate so that it extends over the rim and outside the pie tin (between the holes).

Have the children put the beans and/or peas inside the other pie tin, and put the two together, matching the holes. Staple around the edges to keep the two together. Provide a length of plastic lacing and lace the two together. Glue the Bible verse on top of one of the plates.

Let them do additional decorations with permanent markers and/or stickers.

Arts & Crafts for Lesson 3

GRATED CRAYON PICTURES (Preschool; Kindergarten – Second Grade)

Materials Needed:

- Waxed Paper
- Newspaper
- Crayons – small, broken pieces of various colors; these need to be grated (an old cheese grater works well.)
- Iron
- Patterns: Ear of Corn and/or Heart (see Reproducible Patterns)
- Yarn or String

Have the child select a pattern. For each picture, place the pattern on newspaper and cover with a sheet of waxed paper so that you can see the pattern. Grate assorted colors of crayons on the waxed paper, duplicating the pattern. Lay another piece of waxed paper on top of the grated crayons. Cover with a layer of newspaper. Press all thicknesses with a warm iron until the wax seeps through the top layer of the newspaper. Carefully peel the newspaper away from both layers of the waxed paper. Cut out the design and punch a hole in the top. String a length of yarn through it to make a hanger.

ROCK SCULPTURES (Upper Elementary)

Materials Needed:

- Selection of stones in different sizes and colors
- Tubes of Rubber Cement
- (Glass beads for accents, if available)

Provide a selection of stones in different sizes and colors; some will become animal bodies and others will be eyes, beaks, wings, etc. After planning the creature, apply rubber cement to the smaller stones and let dry a little. Place the smaller stones or beads upon the larger stone and hold the stones together until the cement takes hold. Use permanent markers to draw in details, if desired.

Arts & Crafts for Lesson 4

PAPER BAG FISH (Preschool)

Materials Needed:

- One brown "lunch" size bag for each child
- Newspaper for stuffing
- Yarn or twisters
- Supplies to decorate the fish: crayons, markers, stickers, etc.
- Paper clips

Open up the paper bag and stuff with newspaper, leaving enough of the bag so that you can twist the end, creating a tail. Tie off with twisters or yarn. Let the children decorate the fish as they would like. Undo a paper clip at one end, creating a hook; insert through the top of the bag.

FISH PUZZLE (Kindergarten – Second Grade)

Materials Needed:

- Fish pattern copied onto colored construction paper
- Poster board

Copy the fish pattern onto the construction paper; cut poster board to size of construction paper and glue together. Let children decorate the fish as they would like; have them cut apart on the puzzle lines.

LABEL BAR CODES (Upper Elementary)

Materials Needed:

- Stick on labels, 2" X 4"
- Black, fine line markers

Give each child a label, asking them to make a bar code on the label, using the words: YOU FEED THE HUNGRY!



Arts & Crafts for Lesson 5

FRUIT BASKET (Preschool)

Materials Needed:

- Reproducible patterns for fruit
- Crayons/Markers for coloring
- 1 circle cut out of brown construction paper, cut into 2 halves for each child, with narrow strip for handle (see Reproducible Patters)
- Stapler

Put the two half circles together, and staple around the round edges. Attach a handle to each side, creating a basket. After the children have finished coloring the pieces of fruit, help them paste the fruit into the basket.

FRUIT WINDSOCK (Kindergarten – Second Grade)

Materials Needed:

- Sheets of Fun Foam (9" x 12") or Construction Paper (8 ½" x 11"). (Foam or paper will make 2 – cut the length measurement in half.)
- Crepe Paper Streamers or Wide Ribbon cut in 24" Lengths – 5 colors to match the color of the fruit
- Patterns for Fruit (included)
- Hole Punch
- Yarn – 18" in length/one for each windsock
- Glue

After the children have completed coloring the fruit, have them glue the pieces to the foam or construction paper. A few staples will help hold it together. Then attach the streamers to the bottom edge with a stapler. Fold the foam or paper into a cylinder and staple together. Punch a hole on each side of the cylinder; string the yarn through the holes, and tie at the top, creating a hanger.

Dirt Cup Recipe

- 9 oz. Clear plastic cup/one per serving
- 3.5 oz. package of Chocolate Instant Pudding/Pie Filling (approximately 6 servings)
- Chocolate wafer cookies (crumbled either in a blender or between sheets of waxed paper with a rolling pin)
- Gummy Worms - 1 per serving

Prepare pudding according to package directions. Place a layer of cookie crumbs in the bottom of each cup; place a gummy worm on top of cookie crumbs. Spoon a layer of pudding on top of the worm. Top with a layer of crumbs.

Mission Activities

Mission Activities for Preschool

- Bring a canned good for a community agency. (Preschoolers are really dedicated to this type of mission; their contribution is important to them. Give them a sticker!)
- Have your preschoolers select one of their toys that is in good condition that they would like to share with another child. Have a receptacle available – perhaps a toy box – with a sign, “Kids Sharing with Kids!” Donate to a community center or community agency that serves children.
- Plan a garden with your preschoolers. Decide what you think would be good to raise. Have the children bring seed packets; plant a few windowsill pots with the various seeds. Donate the rest of the seeds to a community garden project.
- Let the children color cards that could be placed on food trays for Meals-On-Wheels recipients.
- Choose a Presbyterian Hunger Program project to tell about. Set a goal, and collect an offering to support projects like that. After reaching the goal, let the children present their offering in the worship service.

Mission Activities for Kindergarten – Second Grade

- Let this age group put together a food basket. Place an empty basket in your classroom and mark it “Food Basket”; receive your weekly offering or your VBS offering in the basket. With plenty of volunteers, take the children to the grocery and let them select and pay for the food from their offering. After shopping, assemble the basket and see that it is delivered.
- Plan a day when school is out to visit a child care center or community program. Make arrangements with the director for their visit. Have the children plan activities/games and provide a snack.
- Create cards or small craft items for meal trays and take them to a feeding program for the elderly. Tour the facility so that the children can see how the meals are prepared. If possible, have the children go with the drivers and visit the elderly.
- This age child can glean. If possible, contact a U-pick farm and see when you could bring the children to glean. Gleaning can also be done at community gardens. You will need to make provision to deliver the food that has been collected.
- Support Presbyterian Hunger Program projects; call (800) 728-7228 for assistance.

Mission Activities for Upper Elementary

- With parental participation, go to a homeless shelter and serve a meal. Make arrangements with the shelter director concerning date and time, number of volunteers needed, and any restrictions. Before going, talk with the children about what they are going to experience and why people are homeless. Be sure to spend some time "debriefing."
- Work with this age group to promote the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Have them prepare and present a Minute for Mission several Sundays before the offering is to be taken. Help them with their presentations; if a microphone is needed, let them practice with it. Have them collect the offering and lead the prayer.
- If your community has a gleaning program, this is a wonderful hands-on experience for this age group. Often U-pick facilities will allow gleaning or will allow volunteers to glean for agencies such as Second Harvest or homeless shelters.
- If you know someone who has a plot in a community garden, see if you can glean there. Bring the produce to the church kitchen and let adults help the children make vegetable soup, using whatever you have gleaned. Serve a soup lunch to the congregation after Sunday worship, charging a nominal fee. Send these monies to the Presbyterian Hunger Program, a food agency, or a community ministry.
- Have the children write letters to local elected officials or congressional representatives on behalf of the hungry.
- Support Presbyterian Hunger Program projects; call (800) 728-7228 for assistance.
- Place a basket next to your soft drink machine; make a sign asking children and youth to donate their soft drink money to a Presbyterian Hunger Program project helping children.
- Prepare School Kits for the Church World Service Gift of the Heart program. Visit <https://pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/> for information.
- Gather new and used tools for Habitat for Humanity. If possible, let the children deliver the tools and see a house under construction. Have these children prepare and serve lunch to Habitat workers.

Recommended Church School Software

Please note: The lists below are excerpted from the original list published with this curriculum in 1999.

Church School Software

The Amazing Expedition Bible on CD-Rom

Baker/Revell. Sixty-two Bible stories. Ages 7-13.

The Life of Christ

Discovery. Could be a stand-alone curriculum. Appropriate for all ages.

Pathways Through Jerusalem

SoftKey (available only from Sunday School Software). Guided tour of Jerusalem's religious and archaeological history. Ages 10 and up.

Online Resources for Christian Educators

Christian Articles Archive

www.joyfulheart.com

Inspirational pieces, humor, illustrations, stories and articles.

Dramatix

www.dramatix.org.nz

Theatrical works written by Christians, many of them royalty-free.

Ecunet

www.ecunet.org

Ecumenical online conferencing community

Gospel Communications Network

www.biblegateway.com

Comprehensive site for Christian resources.

Sunday School Software

www.sundaysoftware.com

Reviews of Christian software teaching materials. Free catalog.

Workshop Rotation Model

www.rotation.org

Explanation of the Workshop Rotation Model, lesson plans, Ideas Exchange message board.

Credits

Tambourines: adapted from *Creative Bible Crafts*, Ages 4-5, Rainbow Books, 1997.

Grated Crayon Pictures: adapted from *Before and After Easter - Activities and Ideas for Lent to Pentecost*, Debbie Trafton O'Neal, Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, 1992.

Fruit Windsocks: adapted from (O'Neal)

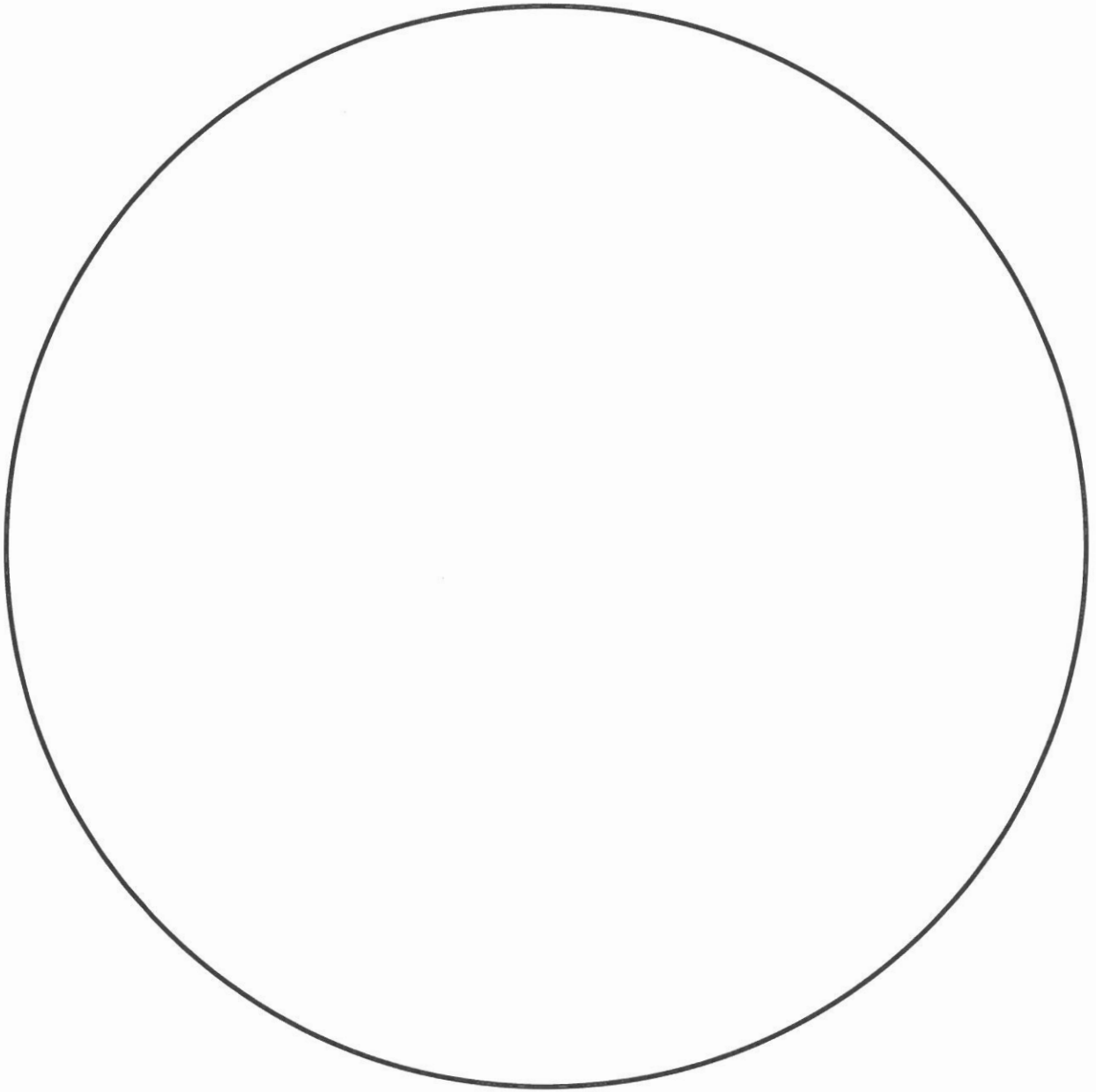
Fruit Basket: adapted from *Learning at Church*, Grades 1-2, Year 2, *Celebrate*, Presbyterian Publishing Company, 1989.

Mac Kenthum, Carole, R.S.M., *Celebrate Summer* (Ages 5-8), Shining Star Publications, A Division of Good Apple, Inc., (Carthage, II - 1985)

Food Guide Pyramid: *Give Them Something to Eat*, Presbyterian Hunger Program.

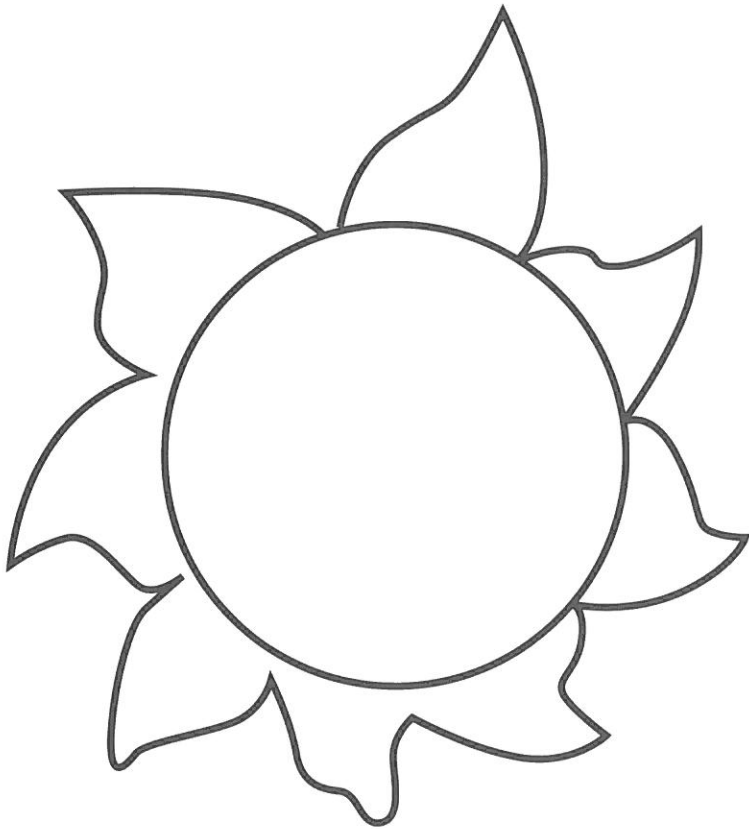
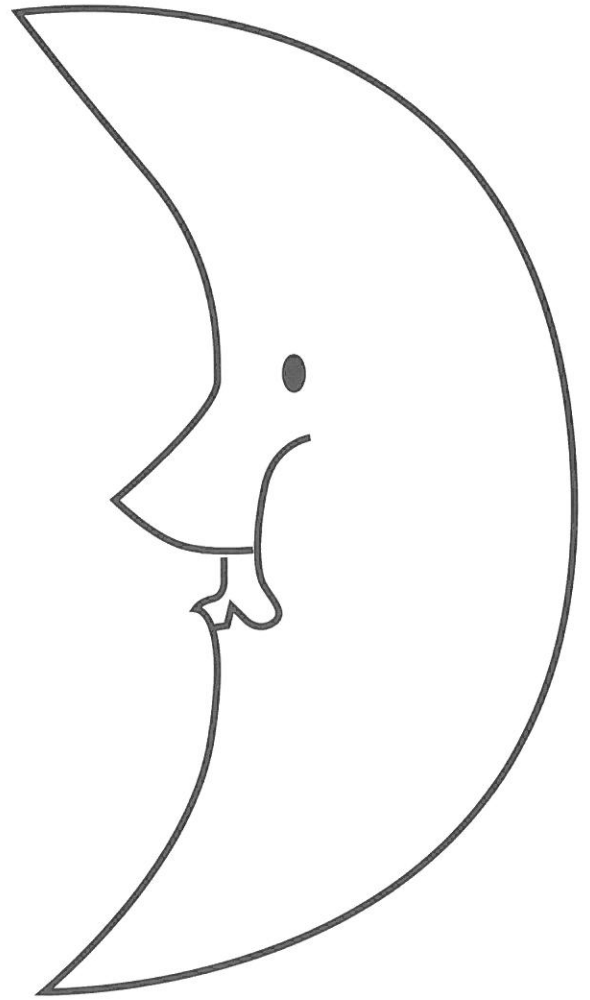
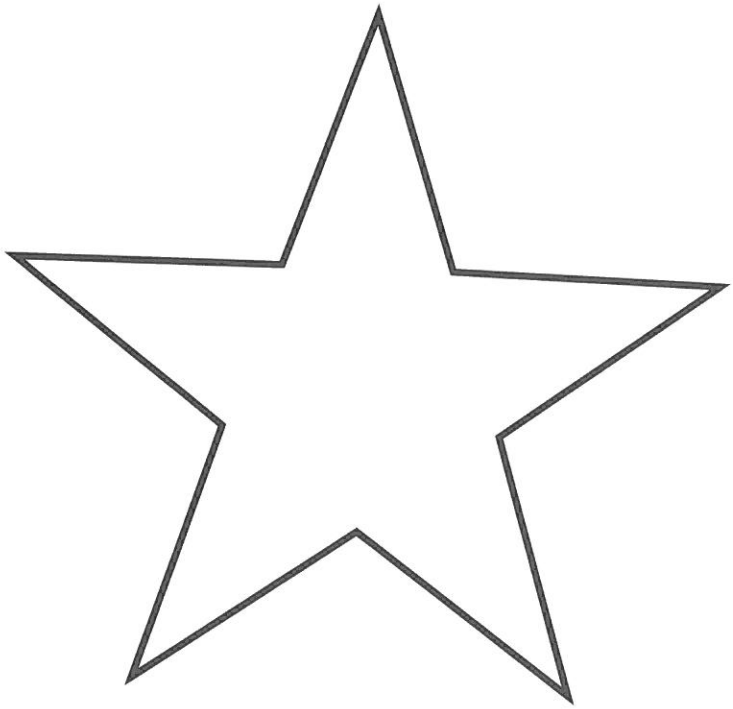
Reproducible Sheets


1. Smiling Face Circle *"And God saw it was good."* (Genesis 1:12)
2. Sun, Moon, Stars
3. Circle *"Gather as much of it as each of you needs!"* (Exodus 16:16)
4. Hearts "God loves you!"
5. Ear of Corn/Heart
6. Fish Puzzle
7. Fruit Basket
8. Fruit
9. Fish
10. Food Guide Pyramid
11. *Is There Enough?* logo



And God saw it was good.

Genesis 1:12





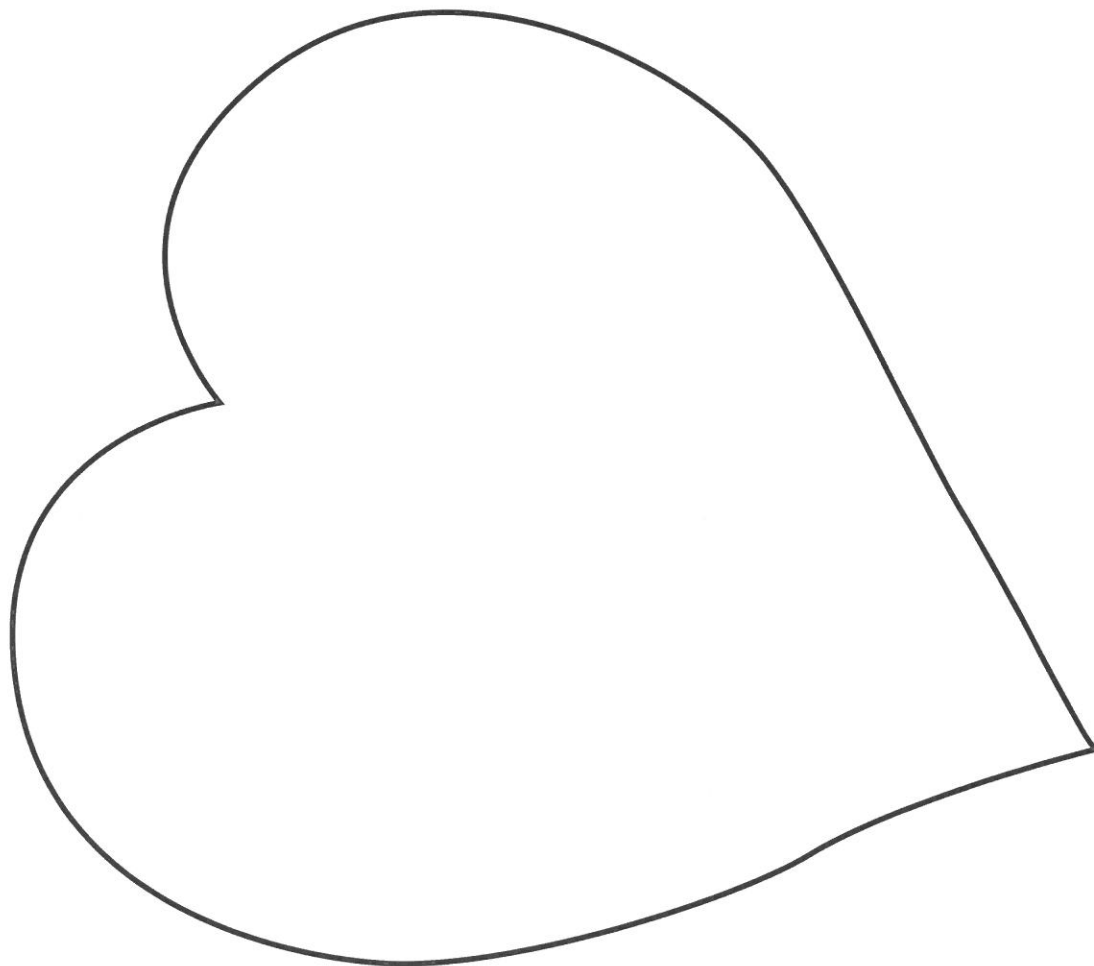
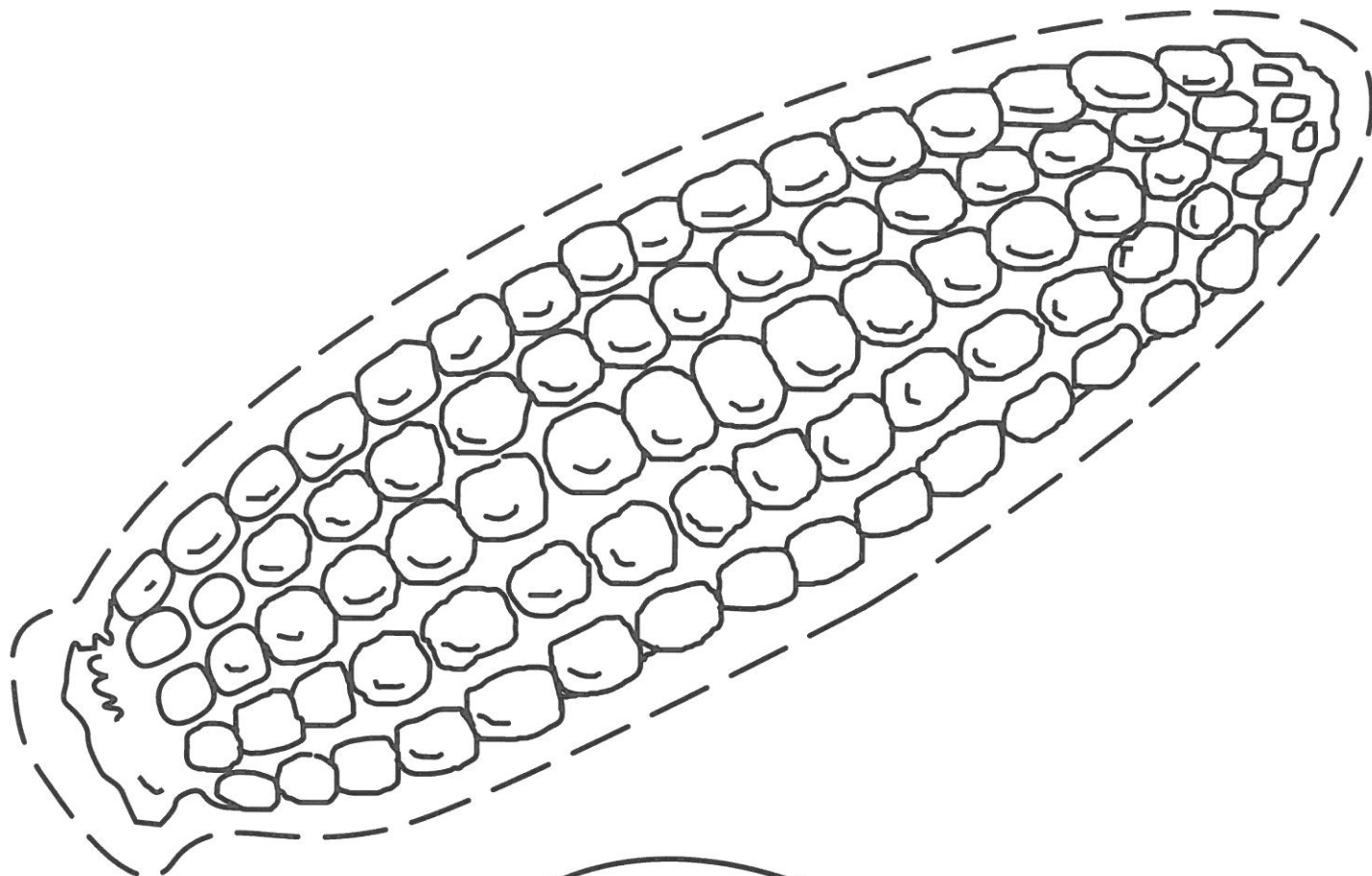
**Gather as much of it
as each of you needs!**

Exodus 16:16

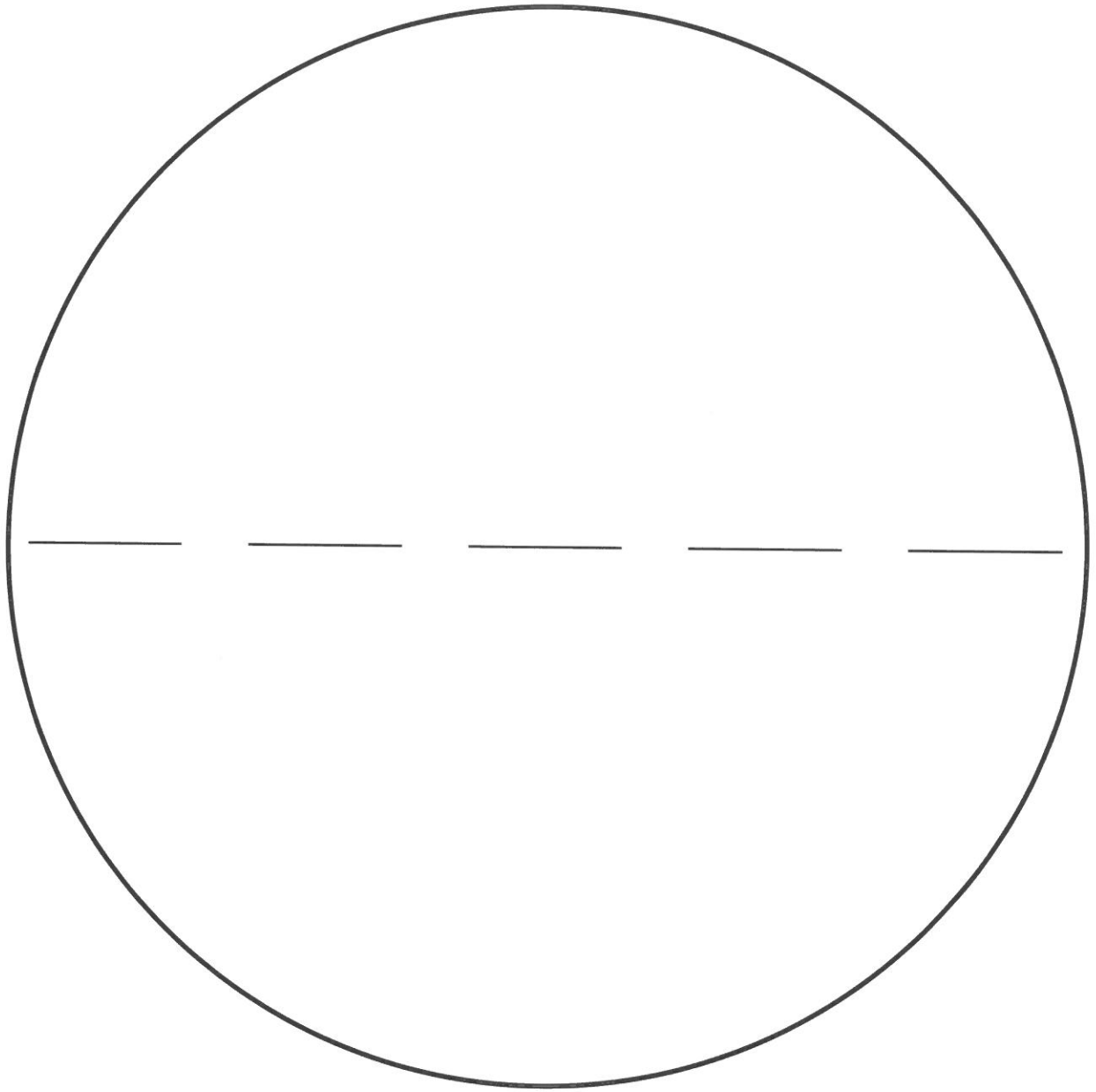


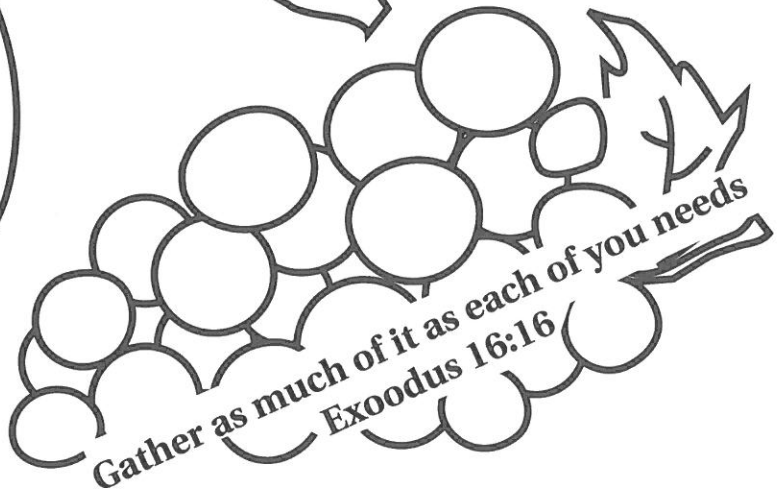
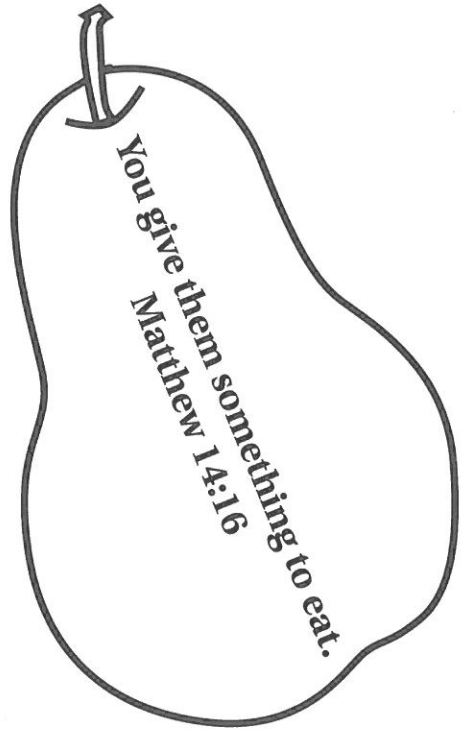
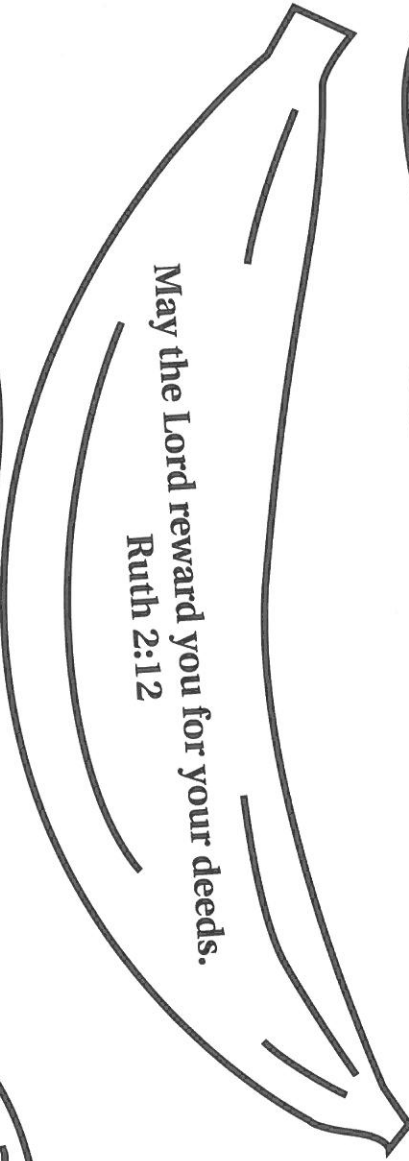
GOD LOVES YOU!

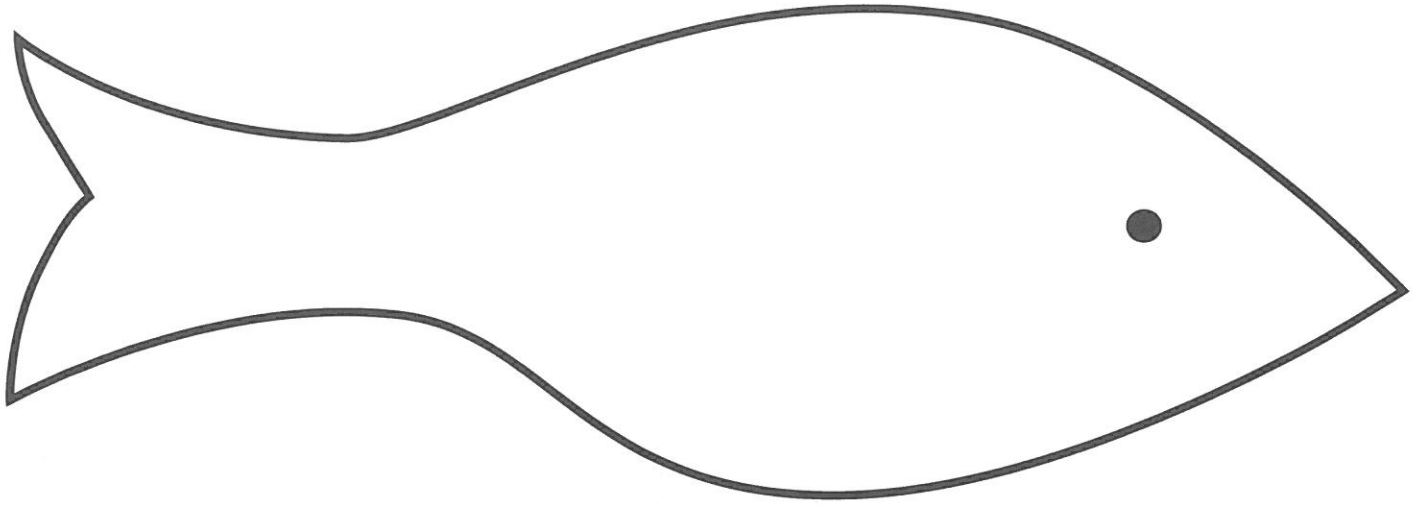
PATTERNS FOR GRATED CRAYONS



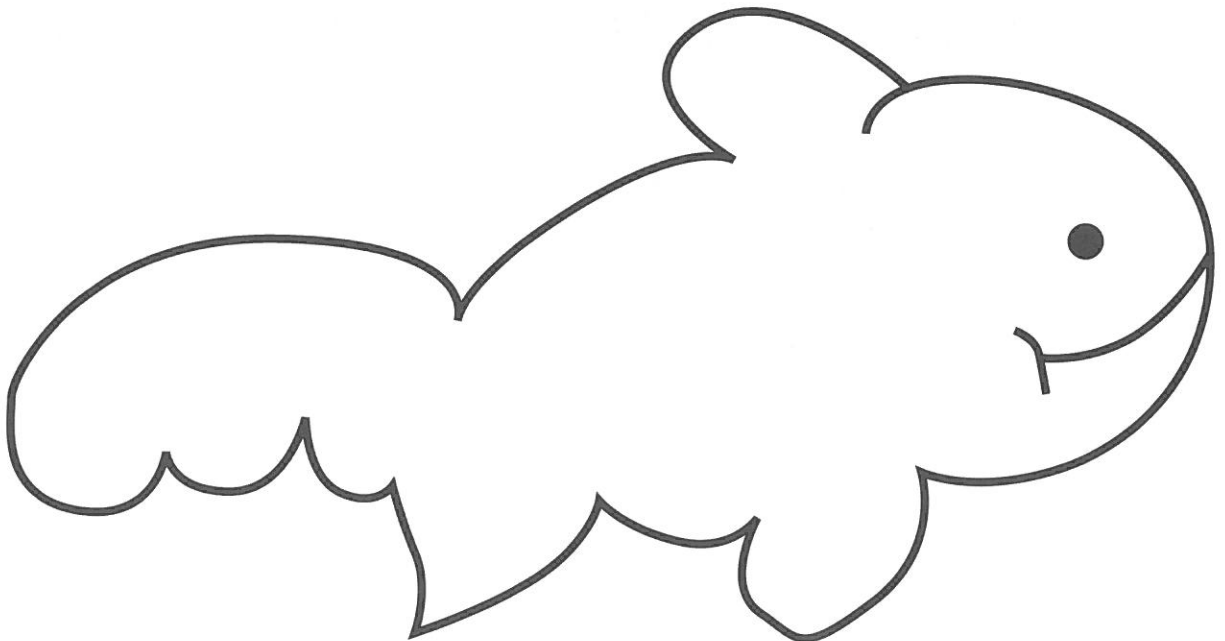








Let's Go Fishing



Food Guide Pyramid

A Guide to Daily Food Choices

Fats, Oils, & Sweets
USE SPARINGLY

KEY

◻ **Fat** (naturally occurring and added) ◼ **Sugars** (added)

These symbols show fats, oils, and added sugars in foods.

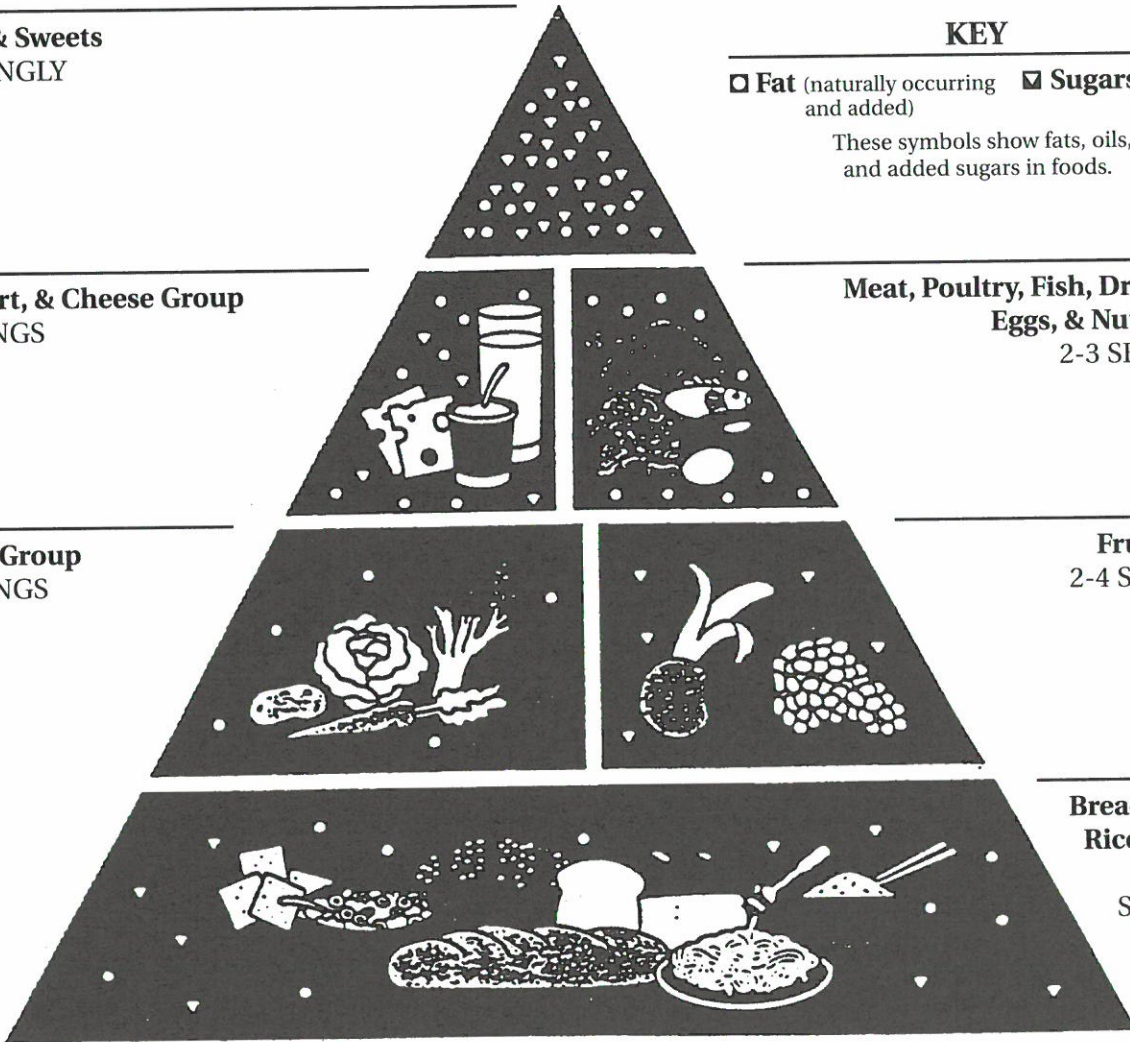
Milk, Yogurt, & Cheese Group
2-3 SERVINGS

Meat, Poultry, Fish, Dry Beans, Eggs, & Nuts Group
2-3 SERVINGS

Vegetable Group
3-5 SERVINGS

Fruit Group
2-4 SERVINGS

Bread, Cereal, Rice, & Pasta
6-11 SERVINGS



Use the Food Guide Pyramid to help you eat better every day . . . the Dietary Guidelines way. Start with plenty of Breads, Cereals, Rice and Pasta; Vegetables; and Fruits. Add two to three servings from the Milk group and two to three servings from the Meat group. Each of these food groups provides some, but not all, of the nutrients you need. No one food group is more important than another — for good health you need them all. Go easy on fats, oils, and sweets, the foods in the small tip of the Pyramid.



**Is There
Enough?**



*Blessed art thou, Jehovah our God,
King of the universe,
who bringest forth bread from the earth.
Amen*

–Ancient Hebrew Blessing

Presbyterian Hunger Program

A program of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202

www.pcusa.org/hunger

