FEED THE FISH
Children and “The One Great Hour of Sharing”
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Purpose: This activity is designed to help children look at the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering of the Presbyterian Church and how they can be involved.

Uses: This lesson can be used as a Sunday School Lesson or in a week-day program for children and can be used with a class of any size. It can also be used by parents/grandparents in the home to help give meaning to “missions” and how they as a child can take an active role.

These materials may be photocopied or adapted to meet the needs of the children and families in your church. If you have any questions please contact Rachel Christopher by email at rachaelc25w@embarqmail.com or telephone (850) 482-8118.

FEED THE FISH
Children and the “One Great Hour of Sharing”
(Lesson Plan)

A. Advance Preparation
1. Check to see when and how the “One Great Hour of Sharing” offering is collected in your church. This offering is usually taken on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday, but the session of the local church can choose any date. Find out the date so you will have an ending for this “Mission Project”.
2. Check to see if your church has received the mailing about the “One Great Hour of Sharing” and ask if you can have some of the Collection Fish and the placemats for use with your class or group. The placemat has some excellent activities on the back!
3. Make copies of the “Sheet of Fish Challenge” and be ready to talk with adults in the home who could support the young people with this challenge. After working through the challenge with the young person the parents could just give them the money to put in their “Fish”, but it would be so much more effective if the young person (no matter what age) could do some things around the house to earn some of the money. This will be up to the parents, grandparents, neighbors, etc.

B. Lesson Outline
1. Example of Jesus: Discuss times when Jesus showed compassion and help to those around him
   a. Feeding of the people (Feeding of the 5,000)
   b. Healing of the sick (Blind man, Lame man, etc.)
   c. Casting out of Demons
   d. Parables – teaching the people about the new covenant of “Love”

2. Words of Instruction of Jesus: John 21: 14 – 17
   a. Jesus appears to 7 of his Disciples after his resurrection.
   b. Immediately before the scripture passage for today you have the story of the “Miraculous Catch of Fish – 153 in all” and the meal on the shore. Jesus is sharing a meal with his disciples and giving them instructions for the future. The message/instruction that he gave to Peter in the scripture passage (John 21: 14 – 17) is a message to us today.
c. Read John 21: 14 – 17
Questions for discussion:
1. What question did Jesus ask Peter?
2. Why do you think Jesus asked this question 3 times?
3. Why do you think Jesus asked “Do you love me” instead of asking “Do you follow me”? Why is love so important?
4. What is Jesus wanting Peter to do in the future?

d. Activity to be done as individuals or as a group
Follow the instructions to see again what Jesus told Peter to do.
Question: What does Jesus want us to do today?

3. Mission Project – One Great Hour of Sharing
a. What is the One Great Hour of Sharing?
1. One of the special offerings that is collected in many Presbyterian Churches under the direction of the General Assembly Mission Council.
2. This offering began more than 60 years ago in response to the devastation of World War II after a Saturday evening nationwide broadcast asked Americans to give generously the next morning in their churches.
3. This offering in the Presbyterian Church (USA) is divided between three programs-
   a. Self-development of People – Helping people and communities develop solutions to their own problems and challenges
   b. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance – Giving help to people following disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, flooding, etc.
   c. Presbyterian Hunger Program – Working to provide food and tackling the reasons behind why people are hungry by providing resources to help people “help themselves”
4. Share when your church will be collecting the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

b. Discuss with the young people ways that they can become involved as a young person in this mission to help others. (You will need a fish for each person)
1. For the past number of years the One Great Hour of Sharing has provided a “Fish Offering Box” to be used as a way to help people focus on this mission. As you “Feed the Fish” you are providing resources to “Feed the Sheep” as Jesus Instructed in our scripture lesson John 21.
2. Challenge for you – “Feed a Fish” and help in the One Great Hour of Sharing.
   a. Put together your fish – noting the words on it:
      Sharing Resources, Changing Lives
      It is remarkable what YOUR gift will do.
   b. “Challenge Sheet” and how it can be used:
      ⊗ 6 fish which show 6 things for which you should be thankful
      ⊗ Instructions on how to count these 6 things and the amount you should “Feed your Fish” in gratitude to God for his gifts to you.
   c. Check with your parents/grandparents/guardians/neighbors to see if there are little jobs that you can do for them to raise the money yourself to “Feed your Fish”.
   d. Fill out the “Challenge Sheet” and place your money in your Fish.
   e. Bring your Fish to church on the Sunday that your church is collecting the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering and add your Fish to the offering of the adults. Take a moment to give thanks to God for all that you have and to feel glad that YOU have joined with Presbyterians all over the world in supporting this great mission of help to others.
Jesus told Peter to do something very important.

Write the first letter of each item on the line.

my ____________ ____________ ____________

my ____________ ____________ ____________

my ____________ ____________ ____________

Who are Jesus’ sheep? ____________ elpoep

(Write the letters in reverse order.)
“FEED THE FISH” Challenge Sheet for Children  
(One Great Hour of Sharing)

Your Name _______________________________________

Look around your house and count the following items. Write the number under the fish and calculate the money you should place in your fish.

Number of Toothbrushes

Number of toothbrushes ____ X 25¢ = ________

Give thanks to God for having Doctors and Dentists to help you stay healthy.

Number of Bibles

Number of Bibles ______ X 25¢ = ___

Give thanks to God that you have Bibles so you can read His Word.

Number of Chairs

Number of chairs _____ X 20¢ = ________

Give thanks to God that you have a home and a place to sit that is warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

Number of Pairs of Shoes that belong to you

Number of pairs of shoes ___ X 25¢ = ______

Give thanks to God that you have clothes to wear and shoes for your feet.

Number of Televisions

Number of TVs ______ X $1.00 = _______

Give thanks to God that you have electricity so you can enjoy TV, stay warm and have lights so you can read at night.

Number of cans of soup or vegetables

Number of cans _____ X 10¢ = ______

Give thanks to God that you have food to eat.

Add up the total of the 6 numbers, work with your parents to do some chores to raise part of the money and then “Feed Your Fish”!!!! Bring your Fish to church on the Sunday that the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is to be collected.