



## WHAT'S INSIDE:

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“Do not neglect to do good  
and to share what you have.”

HEBREWS 13:16A



Your box of OGHS promotional materials includes an interactive map that works well as a stand-alone activity with children of all ages. To order additional copies of this free resource call Judson Press at 1-800-458-3766 and ask for item number OGHS08-7

**HELPFUL HINT:** Check out the new OGHS logo! Spend a few minutes with the children looking at one of the 2008 OGHS posters. Ask them what they see when they look at the logo. Do they see two people? Do they see a heart? How about a peach pit? Have fun and encourage all answers.



## A Picture of Sharing

### OBJECTIVE

To give children an opportunity to “share what they have” and make a difference in another person’s experience.

### SUPPLIES

Crayons  
Construction paper or newsprint  
Old magazines  
Scissors  
Glue sticks  
Small bags of snacks  
Small bottles of water  
Cups (on hand)  
OGHS Coin Boxes  
(To order additional boxes call Judson Press at 1-800-458-3766 and ask for item number OGHS08-5)

*Note: Consider preparing zip-bags in advance to contain the supplies as divided below between the “evens and odds.”*

### ACTIVITY

- ▶ Read the passage from Hebrews 13:16a: Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have.
- ▶ Ask the children what they believe this passage means.
- ▶ Ask them about experiences of sharing: what they shared, why they shared.
- ▶ Ask if they have ever shared what

they had to help someone who didn’t have something they needed.

- ▶ Explain the activity: sharing something we have to make another person’s day better.
- ▶ Have the group count off into evens and odds (1s and 2s). Distribute the supplies —
  - Odds — get crayons, scissors, glue sticks and snack bags
  - Evens — get paper, old magazines and water
- ▶ Invite the class to create a picture of sharing, using what they have. Because they won’t have all of the supplies they will need, invite them to figure out how to solve the problem so that everyone has what they need. Plenty of sharing should ensue.
- ▶ When time has come for a snack, repeat the process. Have cups on hand to permit sharing of the water bottles.
- ▶ When the pictures and snacks are completed, ask the class if they learned anything new about sharing.
- ▶ Distribute a coin box to each child, and invite each child to “share” a coin each day. You may also want to invite each child to express a non-monetary “sharing idea” for the coming week.
- ▶ Close with prayer.



# Like a Watered Garden

## OBJECTIVE

To offer children a concrete expression of a biblical metaphor — planting a seed that reminds them of God’s call to share what we have.

## SUPPLIES

- OGHS Coin Box (two per child) To order additional boxes call Judson Press at 1-800-458-3766 and ask for item number OGHS08-5.
- Plastic sandwich bags (non-zip)
- Potting soil
- Seeds or seedlings
- Water
- Optional: small pebbles for bottom drainage

## BIBLE VERSE AND DISCUSSION

▶ Read the following passage from Isaiah 58:10-11.

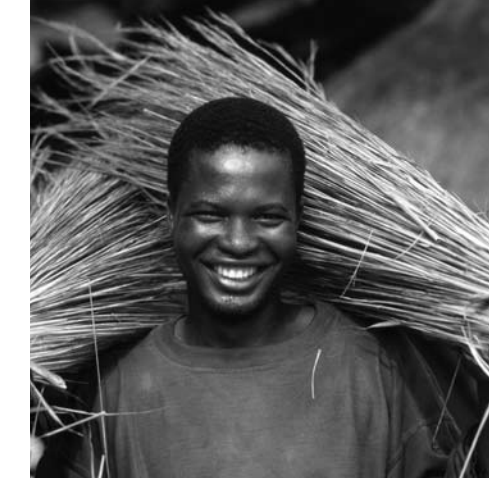
**NRSV:** If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

**The Message:** If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight. I will always show you where to go. I’ll give you a full life in the emptiest of places — firm muscles, strong bones. You’ll be like a well-watered garden, a gurgling spring that never runs dry.

- ▶ Ask the children what they think this passage means. Explain that this passage tells us how God rewards those who share what they have and help others with a circle of blessing: we reach out to people who need our help, and God blesses us so that we’re “like a watered garden.”
- ▶ Ask the children what happens in a garden that is watered and tended. (A watered garden grows flowers and fruits and vegetables that feed us, nourish us, and strengthen us.) Explain that when we share from what we have, God blesses that sharing in a circle that grows so that more and more people experience God’s love.

## ACTIVITY

- ▶ Give each child a coin box, a plastic bag filled with some potting soil, and seeds/seedlings. Invite the children to plant the seeds/seedlings that will remind them of the blessing of sharing. While they are preparing their plants, tell them how sharing what we have with One Great Hour of Sharing helps people all around the world — that our watered gardens “feed” people who need food and shelter, help children go to school, and help families who are running from war. Use the OGHS Map Activity for vignette ideas.
- ▶ When the plants are finished and everyone’s hands are clean, distribute an additional coin box to each child. Invite them to “share” each day, so that people around the world can experience God’s love through their gifts.
- ▶ Close with a prayer that asks God’s blessing to help each of us “be like a watered garden” to feed and nourish children like us around the world.



# Poster Poetry

## OBJECTIVE

To explore situations where One Great Hour of Sharing helps, to feel the joy the congregation’s gifts will bring, and to respond creatively.

## SUPPLIES

- Pictures in this year’s OGHS materials of an irrigation tap in a field, a young girl drinking from a cup, and a smiling man carrying a bundle of grain
- Chalkboard, marker board, or newsprint
- Chalk or appropriate markers
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Drawing paper

## ACTIVITY

- ▶ Show the poster picture of the irrigation tap in the field. Explain that because very little rain fell for several years, the little creek that used to run through this village dried up and there was no water. The people and the fields often were very thirsty, and not much food could grow. People had to walk over an hour each day just to get to a stream and then walk back another hour, lugging heavy cans of water to their families.
- ▶ Invite the children to show with their bodies how plants look when they need water (slumped over, wilted, crumpled in a heap on the floor, etc.). Ask how it feels when people need water. Have they ever been really thirsty? What had they been doing to become so thirsty? What did they want most when they were thirsty?
- ▶ Explain that our One Great Hour of Sharing offerings helped dig a well deep inside the earth, and the village had water again. Show the picture of the girl drinking from a cup and the man carrying a bundle of grain. Ask the children to describe what is happening in the pictures. Ask how the people in the pictures feel. What made them feel that way? Invite the children to illustrate how other villagers might have felt (by clapping, smiling, jumping up and down, etc.).
- ▶ Invite the children now to create a poem together. Explain that this particular kind of poem, a modified cinquain, is made up of five lines that do not rhyme. It follows a particular pattern —

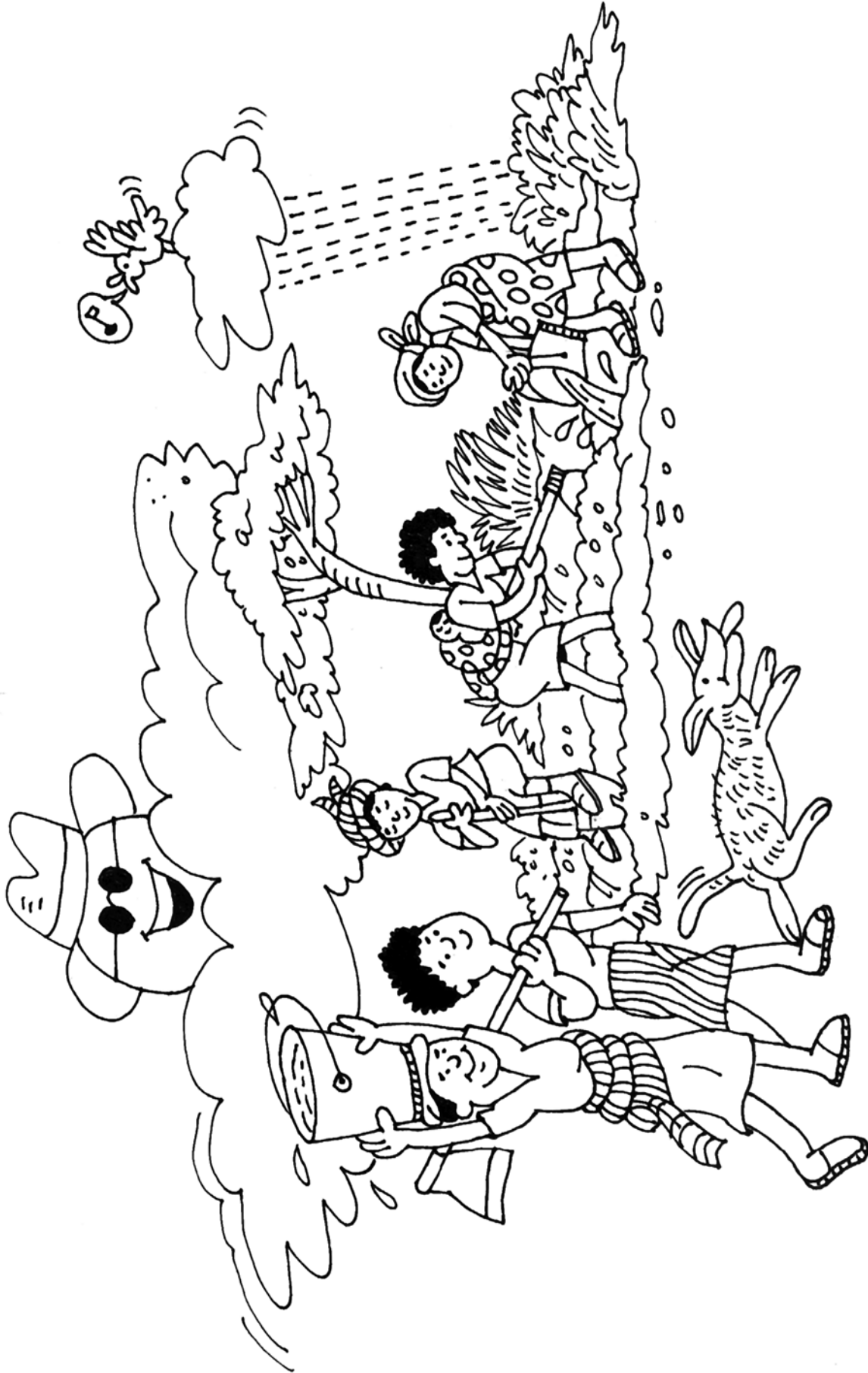
1. The first line is a one-word title: a person, place, or thing (a noun) that will be the subject of the poem.
  2. The second line is two words (adjectives) that describe the poem’s subject.
  3. The third line is three action words (verbs) telling what the subject does.
  4. The fourth line is four words that express feelings— feelings about the subject, or what the subject itself feels.
  5. The fifth line is a one-word restatement of the title, a synonym for or reference to the poem’s subject—one word that sums it all up.
- ▶ Primed by the earlier discussion, invite the children to brainstorm possible subjects for a poem about the One Great Hour of Sharing offering (for example, what the offering brings to help people in need—water, seeds, tools to plant with, animals to begin a herd or flock, blankets or a tent for a family who has lost their home, school books, etc.).
  - ▶ On a board or on newsprint, write down the children’s subject ideas. Have the group choose one idea to be the subject of the poem. Ask them, line by line, to suggest words for each of the other lines. Choosing from the suggestions, the group builds the poem.
  - ▶ They can then illustrate it, with the illustrations and poem to be displayed somewhere in the church for all to see. If time allows, a second poem can be created, choosing words “left over” from the first poem’s creation or by brainstorming new words about a different subject.
  - ▶ Close with prayer, thanking God for water and the subjects of the poems, for how our offerings help people feel happy as they get the things they need to live, and for how happy it makes us to help. Thank God for creativity and the love that connects us to God and to other people.

*Sample modified cinquain*

Water  
 wet, cold  
 dripping, spurting, splashing  
 happy in my tummy  
 drink!



# Coloring Page



**Growing Food**  
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