

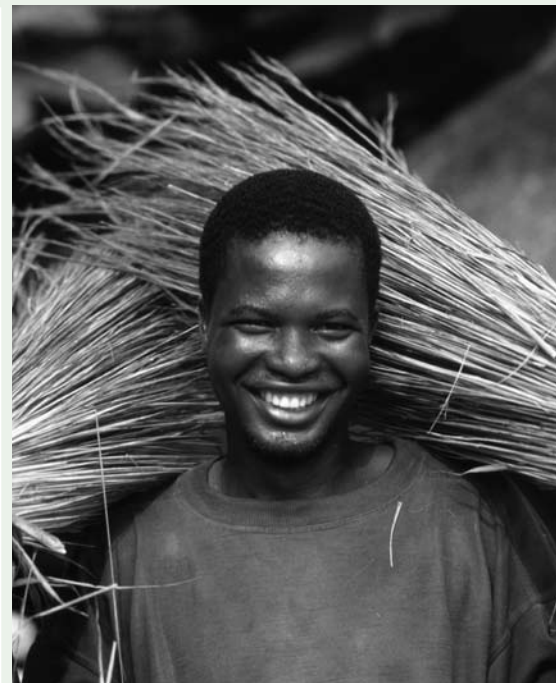


WHAT'S INSIDE:

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(for worship or other group setting)

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

HEBREWS 13:16A



Youth Activity 1: Optical Illusions

OBJECTIVE

To encourage youth to have fun exploring the new OGHS logo.

SUPPLIES

Writing paper
White butcher/flip chart paper
Pencils or pens
Download and print onto cardstock "Old or Young Woman,"
"Duck or Bunny," "Man or Woman" optical illusions from
<http://www.braingle.com/brainteasers/optical-illusions.php>
Printout of the One Great Hour of Sharing logo
(or use one of the OGHS posters)

ACTIVITY

► Break the youth into groups of four and five. Give them the first optical illusion card and ask them to write down what they see on their piece of paper. If they seem to be stuck, give them the hint that is provided from the website. After a minute, or when they are completed, ask them to share with their group. There might be some disagreements about what is on the cardstock! Repeat the same process for the other two optical illusions.



- Show them the One Great Hour of Sharing Logo. Give them a couple of minutes to write down their observations. Have them share what they saw with their group. Have each small group report what was observed and make a list of the different images.
- Read the following description of the One Great Hour of Sharing logo to the larger group and ask if they can see all the different aspects.

The logo is round to reflect the circular flow of blessings that come from helping and being helped. The two figures (do you see them?) represent the partnership nature of One Great Hour of Sharing programs and ministries—it's not us helping someone—it's us working together in partnership with others to accomplish God's work in the world. We recognize that those who share and those who receive benefit equally. The figures are arranged in a circle, or globe, to

reflect the global nature of our work. They are organic and free-flowing to represent the flexibility to respond to whatever is needed. As the figures connect, a heart shape is formed in the center to remind us that true giving comes from the heart.

- ▶ Ask the students to discuss the following questions in their small groups:
 - How would the image look different if it were another color?
 - Why might they see different things in the same image?
 - Where else in life are things not always as they seem?
- ▶ Bring the groups together and ask them to report back on their discussions. Share with the students that as seen today with the OGHS logo, sometimes things are more complex than they might first seem. Solving the world's most pressing problems, like poverty and global warming, is complex. But it doesn't mean that each of us can't play a role in the solutions. Sharing resources through One Great Hour of Sharing enables the people most affected by poverty to participate in the solutions. They change their lives through working in partnership on development projects (digging wells, small business loans, etc.) that meet their most basic needs.
- ▶ Have each small group design on the large paper their own logo for One Great Hour of Sharing based on the theme "Sharing Resources, Changing Lives." Encourage them to make it an optical illusion with different facets and perspectives. Ask the groups to share what they have drawn and explain their symbolism.
- ▶ End with a group prayer that encourages each of us to share our resources with a willing heart.

Youth Activity 2: Our Money vs. God's Money

OBJECTIVE

To help youth realize that their limited resources can be used to make a difference in the world.

SUPPLIES

A/V equipment needed to view a clip of Fox Searchlight's *Millions* (2004). The movie is readily available from both video and online rental businesses.

SYNOPSIS OF MOVIE FROM FOX SEARCHLIGHT'S WEBSITE:

"Danny Boyle once again reinvents the cinematic experience with a heartwarming story of two little boys, faith, miracles...and lots of money. Starting anew after the death of their mother, 9-year-old Anthony is ever practical, while his 7-year-old brother Damian uses imagination, fantasy, and faith to make sense of his confusing world. When a suitcase full of money falls out of the sky at Damian's feet, it sets the boys on the adventure of a lifetime that leads them to realize that true wealth has nothing to do with money." <http://www.foxsearchlight.com/millions>

ACTIVITY

- ▶ Ask students to share what they would do if they were given a million dollars. Have them tell the group what would be the first thing they would do and what would be the first thing that they would buy.
- ▶ Introduce the *Millions* movie clip and show from 1:29:47 to 1:33:33.
- ▶ Ask the youth the following questions:
 - What happened in the clip?
 - Who did you identify with more in the clip: the younger or older brother?
 - Does anyone want to change their answer of what they would do with a million dollars? How? Why or why not?
 - What can we do even if we don't have a million dollars?
- ▶ Have someone read Luke 21:1-4 to the group.
- ▶ Share that even though we are not widows like the woman in the Bible they do have something in common. Ask what the youth think that is.
- ▶ Have the group brainstorm what they can do with the resources, both financial and other kinds, to help end suffering in the world.

CLOSE

Lead group in a prayer.

O God, you desire that all people should eat and be satisfied. May we who follow Jesus today be renewed in our determination to eliminate poverty and hunger in your world. Use our resources, whatever they may be, to change the lives of our neighbors both near and far. Amen. (adapted from Micah Challenge)

Youth Activity 3: The Basics of Life

OBJECTIVE

To encourage youth to think about what is necessary to sustain life and the interaction between living things.

SUPPLIES

Writing paper and something hard to write on
Pencils or pens
String or rocks to mark plot boundaries
Shovel, spade, or sturdy spoon to turn earth

PREPARATION

- ▶ The observation period of this activity is done outside. Alert families ahead of time that participants will need to dress appropriately. The discussion period can be done outdoors or indoors, depending on which situation would be most conducive for the group.
- ▶ Block off a square yard of ground outside for each participant. Vary the plots' makeup if possible: an area of mostly grass, mixed plants, woody area, garden, parking lot with cracks in it, bare dirt, sidewalk, etc. A field trip to a city park or a vacant lot might be productive if where the youth usually meet is mostly asphalt and buildings. A difficult but possible alternative, if ground with living things is just not possible, would be a vertical square yard—the outside wall of a building or the trunk of a tree (which could be divided into several different plots).

ACTIVITY

- ▶ Tell the youth they will have ten minutes to closely observe what is going on in a square yard of the outdoors. They are to take note of everything that is in that space—living organisms, inert things, and the movement and interactions that occur there. They may want to gently turn over some of the earth, if feasible in their plot, to see what is under the surface. If trees or other large plants are present, look at each level (ground, eye level, higher up). Remember to note what happens in the air space above the plot, too. The extended study period is to encourage more than superficial observations. Be careful to leave no trace of the investigation when you finish.
- ▶ Bring the youth back together to discuss their observations —
 - What was going on in your plot?
 - What living things did you observe?
 - How did they interact with each other?
 - What did each living thing need from its environment?

What does each give to its environment? What other things need what that plant/creature gives? How would the plot be different if that organism were not present?

- How might your plot be different at another time of year?
 - Did anyone have a plot where little life was visible?
 - What would that area need to nurture life?
- ▶ Ask the youth to brainstorm a list of things basic to sustaining life [e.g.: water, air, energy (sunlight for plants, food for animals), warmth, soil, young (seeds for plants, babies for animals)]. Make sure they think beyond material things and include God and love. Note that no matter its location or how different each plot was from the others, each community of living things needs these items.
 - ▶ Extend the discussion to talk about the lives of youth. In their own environments, what do they need? How do they get what they need? What role does God play in that? What do they give? How can they extend what they give to a bigger circle?
 - ▶ Although people in other cultures and people in need anywhere may seem very different from us, we all need the basics for sustaining life. Our gifts through One Great Hour of Sharing help bring life's basics to people who don't have them. Go back through the list the youth generated and help them specify examples (warmth: blankets and tents; water: wells and water containers; young: crop seeds, chicks, baby goats). Use vignettes from the activity map to enlarge their understanding of the needs and the One Great Hour of Sharing response.
 - ▶ Close with prayer —Thank you, God, for the basics of life that we have. Help us to so live and witness for our faith that these basics are available to all people. We share your love through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. We ask that through it, you will change our lives and the lives of the offering recipients.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

From Church World Service —

- ▶ Hungry Decisions (interactive game): <http://www.churchworldservice.org/decisions>
- ▶ Various games and simulations: <http://www.churchworldservice.org/wecantoo>

Intergenerational Activity 1: Hospitality for Refugees

OBJECTIVE

To capture a glimpse of life in a refugee tent, and to gain an experiential understanding of the emergency hospitality provided in crises thanks to One Great Hour of Sharing.

SUPPLIES

- Measuring tape
- Masking tape, chalk or string and anchoring items (bricks, books, stones)
- Water jugs (empty milk jugs will work)
- Optional: blankets, cooking pots
- Question page



PRE-EVENT PREPARATION

Before the group gathers, mark off on the floor (using masking tape, chalk, or string anchored by bricks to outline the area, or by using books or stones to mark the corners) several 13' x 13' squares, representing the size of a typical refugee tent for a family of eight. Make one square for each eight participants you expect. (A typical tent size for a family of six is 13' by 10'.)

GATHERING THE GROUP

Note: If feasible, begin the activity outdoors so

participants can experience the effects of weather and being outside.

1. Welcome the group.
2. Ask them to imagine they live in an area that has been hit by a devastating earthquake and its aftershocks. It may be very cold and snowy, or it might be blazingly hot. The buildings in the village have been destroyed. They have been living outside for five days because what was their home is now a heap of rubble. It is like that for all their neighbors, too.

3. Ask the group to talk about:

- ▶ what challenges they face living outside
- ▶ what they miss about having a home to live in

4. Explain that our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing help provide hospitality to people experiencing a crisis or emergency, who are too far away to welcome into our own homes. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, tents arrive for you and your neighbors, plus clean water, food, and medical supplies.

GROUP ACTIVITY

1. Form as many groups of eight or almost eight as you can from those willing to participate, creating groups of various ages if possible:

- ▶ two people, age 55+, to represent the grandparent/respected elder generation
- ▶ two people, 22 – 55 years old, to represent the parent generation
- ▶ two teens
- ▶ two younger children

2. Invite each group to go inside and “move into” one of the squares outlined on the floor. This is the tent they will share as a refugee family! Hand each “family” a copy of the questions below and allow them five to ten minutes to work as a small group.

- ▶ At last, a place out of the snow and rain (or the blazing hot sun)! Decide where everyone will sleep. How will everyone fit? (If physically possible, have everyone lie down to try it out.)
- ▶ How will you use the space for normal daily activities, like
 - playing and working
 - storage (You may have lost almost everything, but consider where to put blankets, cooking utensils, water containers, and personal items retrieved from your old home.)
 - food preparation and eating
 - bathing and toileting
- ▶ Will some activities usually done indoors need to be moved outdoors?

- ▶ Will you allow animals in your tent (a dog perhaps, goats, chickens, or sheep)? If yes, how will you live with them? If not, how will you safeguard them?

- ▶ What will you do when you want privacy or time to be alone?

3. Re-gather as a large group and talk through the decisions various “families” made as they answered the questions. Ask the whole group how, despite its challenges, living in a tent is better than living in the open. Remind participants that through One Great Hour of Sharing, we help families begin to recover from earthquakes and war. Although they may live so far away we cannot welcome them into our own homes to offer shelter and hospitality, through One Great Hour of Sharing, we provide them a much-welcomed temporary home of their own.

4. Close with prayer: We are grateful for our own homes, O God, and the abundance of blessings that come from having a place to “hang our hats.” We are grateful that, through One Great Hour of Sharing, we help bring the blessing of housing and shelter to families who very much need it. We lift them and their other needs up to you in prayer. Amen.

Note: Dimensions, pictures, and information about various refugee tents can be found on the website of H. Sheikh Noor-ud-Din & Sons, www.dinsons.com.



Intergenerational Activity 2: Kindness Quilt

Note: This activity could work for almost any age group, in a variety of settings. The activity could also be conducted by several groups, then combined in a church hallway or public space.

OBJECTIVE

To encourage participants to think about their acts of “doing good” and sharing, and to illustrate those acts in a public display.

BACKGROUND

The idea comes from a children’s book, *The Kindness Quilt* by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace (Marshall Cavendish Corporation, 2006). Minna (a young rabbit) and her class read Aesop’s *The Lion and the Mouse* in class. The teacher asks the class to perform an act of kindness, then draw a picture of it to share with the class. Because she performs many acts of kindness, Minna cannot decide which to illustrate — so she creates a quilt of pictures. Her classmates add their pictures to the quilt, and soon the whole school gets involved and the quilt moves into the hallway, where it covers a wall with many acts of kindness.

SUPPLIES & PREPARATION

- Picture drawing and collage supplies
- Large paper on which to glue the various pictures/items (perhaps a roll of butcher paper)
- Masking tape
- Aesop’s fable, *The Lion and the Mouse*

ACTIVITY

- ▶ Read Aesop’s fable, *The Lion and the Mouse*
- ▶ Ask the group to draw a picture of an act of kindness they have recently performed to help someone who was in need. Alternatively, the group could draw pictures of acts of kindness provided thanks to One Great Hour of Sharing. In addition to pictures, participants could create origami or other objets d’art.
- ▶ Ask each participant to describe her/his act of kindness as they mount their picture on the large paper.
- ▶ Display the completed “quilt” in a public setting.

Sharing Calendar

The following calendar highlights the difficulties facing individuals, families and communities both in the US and around the world, and suggests activities for each day of our church's One Great Hour of Sharing offering period. Each activity offers a suggested donation of "coins" — which may be pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, half- or whole dollars. Your household can decide what coin is best for your situation each day.

DAILY GIVING DEVOTION

At a time appropriate for your household, read the day's entry in the Sharing Calendar. Discuss the situation described and its relationship to your household.

- Read the theme passage for One Great Hour of Sharing 2008: Hebrews 13:16a
- Invite each member of the household to describe an experience of "sharing" since the last devotion.
- Consider your household's Sharing Calendar contribution for the day, and add the contribution to your Sharing Box.
- Offer a prayer for the people and situations highlighted in the Sharing Calendar, and for the people your household will meet in the coming day.

Generous and loving God, we thank you for your love and care for us. You have blessed us with [recount some of your household's blessings and gifts]. You call us to share our blessings — to remember to do good and to share what we have. Today we offer a gift to One Great Hour of Sharing, and pray especially for [the day's highlighted group/country]. We ask that you would strengthen them, bless their lives, provide them with the assistance they need, and show them your love. Help us to see the needs around us today/tomorrow, and to show your love through our actions. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
One Great Hour of Sharing will provide some families with chickens for protein and income from the eggs. Give one coin for each bird you see or hear today.	Women and girls spend more than 10 million "person years" carrying water from remote sources each year. Give one coin for every bottle of water or soda in your home.	More than 1 billion people live on less than \$1/day. Give one dollar's worth of coins.	A typical refugee tent for a family of eight measures 13'x'13'. Give one coin for each room in your home.	Over 100 million children don't go to school because they must work or cannot afford to go. Give one coin for each hour of your school day.	Survivors of the earthquake in China received blankets, food and medicine thanks to One Great Hour of Sharing. Give one coin for each medicine bottle in your house.	Chronic, persistent hunger kills 24,000 people every day. Three of every four who die are under five years old. Give one coin for each time a family member has eaten in a restaurant this week.
For many African families, two gallons of water a day is sufficient for a family of three. Give one coin for each bath, load of wash and toilet flush in your home today.	AIDS has orphaned more than 13 million children in sub-Saharan Africa. Give one coin for each of your parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles.	One Great Hour of Sharing helps thousands of refugees resettle in the US each year. Give one coin for each person you can think of who comes from another country.	Providing mosquito netting is an important part of humanitarian relief and disease control in Asia and Africa. Give one coin for each set of curtains in your home.	Thousands of people have been living in refugee camps on the Burma/Thailand border for more than 20 years. Give one coin for each year you have lived in your home.	Using micro-credit loans, women in Haiti are starting small businesses to buy food and medicine and send their children to school. Give one coin for each place your family does business today.	One Great Hour of Sharing is helping rebuild villages in Bosnia that were destroyed by war. Give one coin for each house on your street.
Six million children under the age of 5 die each year from hunger. Give one coin for each of your birthdays.	In Afghanistan, only 28.7% of people over the age of 15 can read. Give one coin in honor of each of your favorite teachers.	A learn-to-sew program in Mozambique helps women earn more income to support their families. Give one coin for every piece of clothing you wore today.	Church World Service's Religious Services Program addresses the spiritual needs of detainees at eight US Immigration Detention Centers. Give one coin for each staff member at your church.	Water buffalos (four-legged tractors!) help struggling Asian farm families increase their crop yields and carry produce to market. Give one coin for each car or bus ride your family has taken today.	Families in Vietnam are learning how to build toilets that keep their communities and water supplies safer. Give one coin for every time you go to the bathroom today.	Many people sing praise to God because of One Great Hour of Sharing. Give one coin for each radio or for each five music CDs you own.
Many rural women and girls in Africa walk up to four miles one way to get water for their families. Give one coin for each pair of shoes you own.	In the rural Okara district of Pakistan, nearly 9 in 10 children suffer moderate to severe iodine deficiency. Give one coin for each salt shaker in your home.	About 250,00 children are serving as "child soldiers" in 20 countries. Give one coin for each person under 18 in your house.	One Great Hour of Sharing helps families rebuild their homes after hurricanes and other disasters. Give one coin for each hurricane or natural disaster you can remember in the last year.	The World Health Organization estimates that one-third of the world is well-fed, one-third is underfed, and one-third is starving. Give one coin for each snack you've eaten today.	In Ethiopia, Fair Trade coffee programs help communities produce income and ensure enough food for all. Give one coin for each cup of coffee the people in your home drank today.	Isaiah tells us that when we please God by caring for others, we will be like a watered garden. Give one coin for every garden plant or flower you can name.

Sources: Church World Service, UNICEF, Bread for the World, Children's Hunger Relief Fund, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Dramatic Interpretation

OBJECTIVE

To help connect scriptural imperatives with the work accomplished through One Great Hour of Sharing.

PREPARATION

The script below can be used in various settings—during a worship service, a youth meeting, an intergenerational gathering. Since little movement and few props are used during readers' theater, most of the meaning is conveyed through the oral expression of the four readers. They do not need to memorize their lines since they read from a script in hand during the performance.

"Reader" sits center stage, closest to the congregation. "Heart for the World" and "Heart for God" stand about 6' behind and to either side of "Reader," forming a V-shape. "Narrator" stands off to one side, perhaps behind a lectern.

Narrator (standing)	Heart for the World (standing)	Heart for God (standing)
	Reader (sitting)	

"Reader" has in his/her lap a large Bible that can easily stay open without the pages flipping. "Heart for the World" might wear a very large red paper heart-shape pinned to his/her front, with a representation of the world taped on it, perhaps a picture of earth taken from space or a color map of the continents. "Heart for God" wears a similar red heart but with a cross or other suitable symbol for God on it.

THE SCRIPT

Narrator: "Reader" is hurriedly preparing to read the Scripture for worship service. Reader's heart is in the right place, but, like many of us, he/she is often confused by what the Bible has to say. But God speaks through the Word to this day. "Heart for God" [point out that character] voices the desire to follow God. "Heart for the World" [point to that character] voices the desire to contribute to the world.

Reader: I need to practice that scripture I'm reading today during the worship service. I want to read it like I really understand what it's saying. But, Isaiah? I hope it doesn't have a lot of hard-to-pronounce names in it! I'm glad I get a chance to contribute to the service, but it's kind of scary, too. I wish I'd gotten the Hebrews passage. It was really short and simple: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have." Well, maybe that isn't so simple. What is "doing good"? A zillion, million, impossible things, I think.

But maybe Isaiah will help explain. [Flip through the Bible.] Where is Isaiah, anyway? [Locate the actual passage, Isaiah 58, beginning with verse 6.] Oh, here it is.

Heart for God: God is calling you.

Reader: [looking up and around quickly] What?

Heart for God: God is calling you.

Reader: [sounding a bit shaky] I thought I heard someone say, "God is calling you." Calling me to what? [shakes head as if to clear it] I better get down to business. [looking back down at the Bible] Verse 6: "Is not this the fast that I choose..."

Heart for God: God is calling you to worship, with body, mind, and spirit.

Reader: "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice..."

Heart for the World: Poverty is bondage. Oppression is bondage. You can help to bring justice.

Reader: "...to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke..."

Heart for the World: You can help to free the oppressed.

Reader: "...to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke."

Heart for God: God is calling you to worship that frees the oppressed.

Reader: Wow. The worship that God wants is to bring justice and free the oppressed? That sounds like something you do down at a courthouse or a refugee camp. What does that have to do with sitting in church?

Heart for God: God is calling you to worship...

Heart for the World: ...that frees the oppressed.

Heart for God: God is calling you to give what you have to God...

Heart for the World: ...to change the lives of others.

Heart for God: Worship...

Heart for the World: ...that changes lives...

Heart for God: ...will bring you closer to God, here in your church...

Heart for the World: ...whether or not you can go to the camps and courthouses yourself.

Reader: What else is in here? Verse 7: "Is it not to share your bread with the hungry..."

Heart for the World: Hungry people need you. Famine in Africa, homeless people in your own town.

Heart for God: God is calling you to give. Sharing with the hungry is an answer to God's call.

Reader: "...and bring the homeless poor into your house." I don't know about that. Sometimes I get scared a little by some of the "street people." And what about the safety of my family if I bring the homeless poor into my house?

Heart for God: God is calling you to bring the homeless poor into your heart.

Reader: Into my heart? *[wonderingly]* What if I brought the homeless poor into my heart? What would I do differently?

Heart for the World: You can help a woman without an income, a child without a home.

Reader: Hmm. "Bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them."

Heart for the World: When you see people who have lost everything...

Heart for God: ...God is calling you...

Reader: "...to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin." It's so easy to shut out the pictures on the TV of all those poor, starving people in Africa and elsewhere, to ignore the street people I pass, to shut down the thoughts of "What do I do to help?" But I guess that is a kind of hiding.

Heart for the World: All the world's people are your kin. You can make a difference.

Heart for God: God is calling you to love the world with God's own heart.

Reader: There is so much suffering in the world. I want to do my part! But just thinking about how complex and big the problems are makes me feel blue. I want to do what God calls me to do, but it seems so little, like I can't make a real difference.

Heart for the World: It's about giving.

Heart for God: And it's about receiving.

Reader: Say what? Receiving? I don't get that.

Heart for the World: What does your text say next?

Reader: The text? Oh, I almost forgot. Verse 8: "Then your light shall break forth like the dawn." My light? Rise like the sun? *[warmly]* That sounds wonderful!

Heart for God: God is calling you to worship that lets your light shine.

Heart for the World: When your light shines, you change the world.

Heart for God: When your light shines, you change.

Reader: "Your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly."

Heart for God: Healing for you.

Heart for the World: Healing for the world.

Heart for God: When you give yourself to the worship God wants...

Heart for the World: ...the worship that frees the oppressed, feeds the hungry, houses the homeless, and clothes the naked poor...

Reader: "...your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard." God all around me, me walking in the light of God, following God's heart. That's what I want! Let's see now, verses 10 and 11. Wow! This is good stuff. Wait 'til the congregation hears this: "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." Hmm... Sharing resources...

Heart for God: ...because that is what God wants...

Heart for the World: ...and because that is what the world needs.

Reader: Changing lives...

Heart for God: ...your life...

Heart for the World: ...and lives around the world.

All: Is not this the worship that God chooses, to loose the bonds of injustice and satisfy the needs of the afflicted? Sharing resources, changing lives: One Great Hour of Sharing.