

Great Hour of Sharing Children's Sermon

Preparation

Gather pictures of community helpers such as police officers, firefighters, teachers, nurses and security guards. Have them ready to share with the children. You can pass them around if you think your group would respond well to that.

Message

Greet the children as you typically would. Say: **I have brought some pictures to look at today, but first I want to ask you a question. Who are helpers? Who are the people we can ask for help?** Take answers. Affirm the children for sharing. Say: **I want to share with you the people I thought about being helpers. I brought pictures of some of them.** As you share each picture, talk about why that particular person is a helper in the community.

Say: **Today, our church, alongside many other churches, celebrates One Great Hour of Sharing. As we worship together and give to the offering, we share with others. When we share, we are like all the helpers whose pictures we just looked at. When we share on this day, by giving our money and prayers, we help people. Did you know that sometimes there are not enough helpers? The United Methodist Church has an organization called the United Methodist Committee on Relief to help in those times. People with this group go to the places where people need help. Perhaps they are hungry because crops are not growing. Maybe a big storm like a hurricane, tornado or earthquake has upset their lives. When big disasters like this happen, people need help. Sometimes, people must leave their homes, and food and water are hard to find. We might not be the ones who go to be the helpers, but we can help the helpers go to find people who need them.**

Closing Prayer

God, our great rescuer, we pray for the helpers today. We pray for people who put themselves in harm's way to help and protect others. We also pray for those who need help today. We pray that they would know that you are with them. Help us to be helpers whenever and wherever we can. Amen.