

Lenten Challenge: “Gleanings”

She said, “please, let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the reapers.” So she came, and she has been on her feet from early this morning until now, without resting even for a moment. ~Ruth 2:7

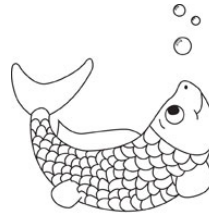
In this passage, Ruth asks for permission to go through the fields that have already been harvested to see what grain that was missed she can gather to feed herself and her mother-in-law, Naomi.

Gleaning is the idea that much of value can be found hidden in the leftovers. In modern times, we see this idea put to use with such organizations as “America’s Second Harvest” which helps bring older, but edible produce and other products from supermarkets to hungry people. Many bakeries donate day-old bread to soup kitchens. Many of you probably donate used clothes and toys to Goodwill or the Salvation Army.

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A Lenten challenge your family may choose to do is to look for ways that you can offer gleanings to others. Clean out your closet to find items that others in need may be able to use. Bring some of the extra canned goods from your pantry to church for the food cupboard. And while you are doing it, talk about the Biblical concept of gleaning. In addition to the Ruth passage above, see Leviticus 19:9-10, 23:22 and Deuteronomy 14:28-29.

*Filled banks will be received during
worship on Palm Sunday (March 16)*



This year we will again be receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing offering during Lent. Our gifts will go to help people in many parts of the world through three groups: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Self Development of People and Presbyterian Hunger Program.

We encourage you to use these activities, but also to look for your own opportunities to fill the banks. The activities in this brochure are just suggestions. Families may choose to find additional ways to give, or you may have different ideas altogether. Please feel free to use these materials in whatever way they will be helpful for your family.

Lent is traditionally a time for reflection and study. We hope that these resources will help your family to prepare for Easter.

For more information about One Great Hour of Sharing or Sunday School at Third Presbyterian Church, please contact Coordinator of Children’s Ministries and Congregational Life, Becky D’Angelo-Veitch at 271-6537 ext. 118 or at rveitch@thirdpresbyterian.org.



LENT 2008 CHILDREN’S ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING ACTIVITIES

*Do good and share what you have
~Hebrews 13:16*



FISH BANK ACTIVITIES—EACH DAY THERE IS AN ACTIVITY TO HELP YOU FILL YOUR BANKS. THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS TO SHARE. . .

February 24-March 1

Sharing what I have

Sunday: "Tithing" is a word that is often used to describe stewardship and giving of monies. It means to give a certain percentage of your money—often 10%. Count how much money you have in your piggy bank, purse or wallet. Work with your parents to figure out what 10% of that is. Can you challenge yourself to put that amount in your fish bank??

Monday: Over 40% of people in the least developed ("Third World") countries live on less than \$1 a day. Put \$1 worth of coins in your bank.

Tuesday: A One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) project in Pakistan helps a village of 4,000 earn money through a dairy farming project. Put in one coin for each glass of milk you drink today.

Wednesday: In western and central Africa, only 4% of people have a phone. Give two coins for every time you talked on the phone today.

Thursday: 850 million people in the world are malnourished, most because of hunger. Try to cook a meal for less than \$1 and give one coin for each member of your family.

Friday: An OGHS project in Laos helps educate children. Give one coin for every page you read today.

Saturday: More money is spent on pet food in the US and Europe than the \$13 billion needed to meet the basic health and nutrition needs of the world's poorest. Give the cost of one bag or can of pet food.

March 2-8

Sharing what my family has

Sunday: Families spend a lot of time in their cars. Today have your fish bank live in your car. Look on the floor of your car for coins that you can put in your bank. When you get food at the drive through, why not put the change in your fish bank?

Monday: In Sub-Saharan Africa, only one in 100 people is an internet user. Give one coin for each minute you spend online today.

Tuesday: An OGHS project in Bangladesh is creating a weaving business that will help 800 tribal women earn money making blankets. Give one coin for each blanket in your house.

Wednesday: OGHS gifts help volunteers re-build homes after Hurricane Katrina. Give one coin for each room in your house.

Thursday: The war in Sudan is the world's longest running civil war—35 of the past 46 years. Give one coin for each year of peace in Sudan.

Friday: More than 2 billion of our neighbors around the world lack proper toilet facilities. Give one coin for each time you use the bathroom today.

Saturday: Drought has recently killed up to 60% of livestock in Kenya. Give two coins for every pet in your home.

March 9-15

Inspiring others to share

Sunday: Who will you see this week that you could tell about your fish bank project? Will you have visitors at your house? Can you share it with friends at school or scouts or sports? Invite friends who visit you to put a coin in your bank, and for everyone who does so, put in one of your own as a sign of your thankfulness for their generosity!

Monday: Over 350 million children must work, sometimes over 15 hours a day. Give one coin for every hour of TV you watch today.

Tuesday: Refugee programs offer shelter, food and safety, and give people the chance to begin rebuilding their lives. Give two coins for every time you have moved.

Wednesday: In South Asia, only 61% of students who enter school will reach 5th grade. Give one coin for every year of education you've had.

Thursday: \$10 a month can provide books, uniforms and tuition for an African child. Can you put in enough money to provide for schooling for one day?

Friday: Many people in developing countries spend hours every day collecting and carrying water. Give one coin for every faucet in your home.

Saturday: Two children are orphaned by AIDS every 60 seconds. Give two coins for every parent you have.

Fish Bank Prayer

Caring and loving God, thank you for the many blessings of basic needs that we sometimes take for granted. Help us to remember that all that we own and all that we are comes from you. We ask that you bless once again these gifts that you have already given to us. Amen.