

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

This children's sermon may need to be adapted depending on your congregation's promotion plans. You may want to review the bracketed area in particular to be sure it reflects what your congregation will be doing.

Good morning, boys and girls. I have something here that you might remember from last year. (Hold up bank). Do you know what it is? (Allow time for responses.) That's right, it's a bank. Do you remember how we used the bank? To save money for our One Great Hour of Sharing offerings. We're going to collect everyone's One Great Hour of Sharing offerings on Easter Sunday, which is \_\_\_\_\_ this year. Between now and then, you can think of ways to earn money or save money to put into your banks. [Starting next Sunday there will be a sharing calendar on the back of the inserts that you will find in your church bulletins. You can read these with your parents. This year we're going to talk each Sunday about ways we can help fill the world with God's love. (Show globe or map.) Each Sunday I'm going to show you some places where our One Great Hour of Sharing offerings have been used.] But first, let's think about this world. Who made the world? That's right. God made it. And when it was finished, God looked at it and saw that it was very good. God loved it so much. All of it. The sky and stars, the moon and sun, the water and land, the plants and animals. And the people. Oh, God loved it so! But you remember that the people decided to disobey God and the world started having problems. And it has continued. We still disobey God, and the world that God created in love is full of hate and fear and all sorts of bad things. But the Bible tells us that when we give our lives to God, then we will want to be part of God's loving work, to help God fill the world with love again. How can we do that? (Time for responses.) Here at home, we can help others, we can share what we have. But how can we help fill the world in faraway places with love? Since we can't go to these places, we send our money and prayers instead. So during these few weeks before Easter, let's be praying for ways to show God's love all over the world, and ways we can share our money with others who are at work trying to fill their part of the world with love.

Virginia Stevens, Hunger Action Enabler  
Presbytery of Western North Carolina  
One Great Hour of Sharing Text