

## Children's Sermon

Introduction: Children are eager to grow up, to become big. They usually equate bigness with power and strength. The purpose of this children's sermon is to emphasize that big is not always better, that small things often work as well as big things, and that a big heart is possible for anyone regardless of his or her size. Help children think about whether big is always better. Help them understand that they don't have to be large to have a big heart. Relate the big heart to giving on One Great Hour of Sharing.

Make your own adaptation of this material as your circumstances dictate.

Props: several balls of different sizes, such as a pingpong ball, golf ball, softball, and a basketball)

What does it mean to be BIG? Does it mean to be large? Or to be strong? Is big always better?

I brought some balls here today. Each one is for a different game. This is a pingpong ball; it is small and very light. And here is a golf ball; it is a little bigger and much heavier. Could you play a better game of pingpong with it?

Here is a softball; it is bigger and heavier than the golf ball. Could you play golf better with the softball?

And here is a basketball; it is the biggest ball I brought. Could you play pingpong or golf or softball with it?

So, being bigger is not always better. It depends on the game you want to play. You can't play basketball with a pingpong ball, but neither can you play pingpong with a basketball.

When Paul was writing to his Christian friend in Corinth, he suggested that they have big hearts. What do you think he meant? Does it mean that the heart beating in your chest gets really big? Probably not. It means that when you do really good things for others you have a big heart, and big hearts are found in people of all sizes.

Wonderful things are possible when you have a big heart. You can take care of your world instead of using it up. You can play fair even when you could get away without being fair. You can give something of yours to a friend or to someone you don't even know, just because he or she needs it.

Today we are going to take an offering for people we don't know, just because they need help and because we want to have big loving hearts. We call the offering One Great Hour of Sharing.

You may not have a lot to give, perhaps only a few pennies or a quarter. Your parents may only have a few dollars. What makes our coins and dollars really big is that we take what we have and share it or give some of it away. And what we give becomes really big when we add it to the pennies and quarters and dollars given in churches all across our country.

Jesus doesn't ask us to be bigger than we are. But Jesus does ask us to open our hearts no matter what our size. Remember that you are always big enough to share and to give. That's what Jesus asks us to do; and we can, if we really try.

**PRAYER:** O God, help us to have big hearts no matter what our size, so we can help take care of our world, do what is fair and right, and give to others who need our help. In Jesus' name. Amen.