

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



FOOD SECURITY AND INCOME GENERATION

Acts 2:42-47; 4:32 The believers share

Today we are going to consider what Jesus taught us about sharing and learn more about The Salvation Army's international food security and income generation projects. You can find out more about these projects and how your group could get involved at <https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/international-development/campaigns/feeding-hope>

Each child will need:

- 3-4 bunting triangles (these could be card or fabric (purchased and distributed ahead of the session) <https://www.bakerross.co.uk/arts-and-crafts/craft-activities/bunting>)
- Pens (fabric pens if necessary) and/or crayons

Start It

Listen to the story *Thank You, Omu!* by Oge Mora (featured in an episode of the 'Julie's Library' podcast. The story begins five minutes into the episode and lasts for 7 mins 10 secs). <https://www.julieslibraryshow.org/episode/2020/07/15/thank-you-omu>

Discuss

- What are the benefits of sharing?
- How do you feel about sharing things? Do you find it easy or challenging?
- Can you think of a time when someone shared with you? How did it make you feel?
- **Say:** Sharing is one way that we can show others that we care about them. When we share with people, we are showing them that we're not just concerned about our own needs but theirs too. When people share, it gives more people the opportunity to experience good things.

Ask: What are some things we can share? (eg food, toys, time, our home/room, words of encouragement, the gospel)

Tell It

- **Say:** The Salvation Army has seen the difference that sharing can have in people's lives through some of their international food security and income generation projects.
- **Say:** In Zimbabwe, The Salvation Army provides training in simple farming techniques to help small-scale farmers make the best use of their land. But it doesn't stop there. Once the farmers have gained the new knowledge, they are encouraged to go on to train their friends and neighbours, who are then encouraged to do the same. By sharing the knowledge in this way, hundreds of farmers can benefit from the training and improve their harvests.
- **Say:** In Nairobi, Kenya, The Salvation Army is supporting people as they work together to lift themselves out of poverty.

Video

Watch the video from the project:

Introduction – Community Shares (2 mins 35 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZtgYiaxyZY>

🗨️ **Say:** Unjust systems mean people are often stuck in a cycle of poverty and it is almost impossible for them to break out of this alone. By working together and sharing resources, the group members in Nairobi have found a way to grow their income so they are no longer simply surviving but thriving! As well as adding to a shared pot, the group is also able to support each other through the friendships they have formed.

🗨️ **Say:** In a world where people are often encouraged to think only of themselves, these groups are creating communities in which people care for one another.

Ask: What did you find most interesting about this video? Did anything surprise you?

🗨️ **Say:** There are lots of examples in the Bible of people sharing with one another, such as:

➔ Boaz shared his meal with Ruth (Ruth 2:14).

➔ A young boy shared his lunch and Jesus used this generosity to feed thousands of people (John 6:1-14).

➔ Paul encouraged people to share with those in need and welcome people into their homes (Romans 12:13).

🗨️ **Say:** One of the last things that Jesus said to his friends and followers was an instruction to share the good news about him with others. In Acts we read about these followers of Jesus as they go on to live their lives in community, sharing everything they have with each other, and to tell people about Jesus.

Read Acts 2:42-47 (ICB)

'They spent their time learning the apostles' teaching. And they continued to share, to break bread, and to pray together. The apostles were doing many miracles and signs. And everyone felt great respect for God. All the believers stayed together. They shared everything. They sold their land and the things they owned. Then they divided the money and gave it to those people who needed it. The believers met together in the Temple every day. They all had the same purpose. They broke bread in their homes, happy to share their food with joyful hearts. They praised God, and all the people liked them. More and more people were being saved every day; the Lord was adding those people to the group of believers.'

Read Acts 4:32 (ICB)

'The group of believers were joined in their hearts, and they had the same spirit. No person in the group said that the things he had were his own. Instead, they shared everything.'

🗨️ **Say:** These verses are a great example of what Church should look like, and how followers of Jesus should live.

🗨️ **Say:** Sharing was clearly really important to the early Church. They shared everything – food, property and money – and they worshipped and praised God together. When someone was struggling, they helped them out.

Sing It

Share the sharing song together!

'The sharing song' by InfinityPointOne (2 mins 43 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CmygGfeYXBc>

Action It

Mahatma Gandhi was a famous politician, social activist and pacifist.

He once said, 'Earth provides enough to satisfy everyone's need, but not everyone's greed.'

Ask: What do you think he meant by that?

🗨️ **Say:** Sadly, the Earth's resources are not being shared equally by everyone. Some people have a lot of money and resources, much more than they need or know what to do with, whilst others struggle to earn enough money or grow enough food to eat every day.

Discuss

- ➔ How does it feel when you need some help, and no one is there to help you?
- ➔ Who needs help in our world?
- ➔ What can we do to share with people who don't have enough food?

Bunting

Each child should have 3-4 bunting triangles which they can decorate whatever way they choose. Invite them to write or draw on each triangle a different way that they can share with other people.

When you can meet together in person, put all the bunting triangles together and display them somewhere prominent as a reminder of the importance of sharing and a celebration of the fact that we can do more together.

Pray It

🗨️ **Say:** A prayer that Jesus taught his followers is known as the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). We're going to read it out loud all together, but don't worry about reading the words at the same time as each other – just read it at your own pace. It will sound loud and a bit messy but that doesn't matter. God will love that you are praising him and praying to him as a group and he can hear each one of you.

Share screen:

Our Father in Heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in Heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
AMEN

Explore It

IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to share with your group, for them to do at home.

FOR ME



Share

In Acts 2:42-47 we see the Church sharing what they have. Is there anything that you have that could be shared with someone else? Some ideas include:

- ➔ Give some of your toys to the local charity shop.
- ➔ Do you have a special skill? Share your knowledge and teach it to someone else.
- ➔ Make a card and send it to someone who may be feeling low right now.
- ➔ Could you donate some of your pocket money to charity?
- ➔ Bake some cupcakes or biscuits and share them with your neighbours.
- ➔ Tell someone your experience of Jesus and what it means to you to follow him.

TOGETHER



Bake

Make a puff pastry sharing snack with another member of your household and invite guest(s) round to share it with you. Tell them about what you thought about in this session. Perhaps you could also watch a film or play a game together.

<https://lifemadesimplebakes.com/nutella-puff-pastry-snowflake/#wprm-recipe-container-26086>