



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

## Children's Sermon

Supplies:

- Gift box or gift bag with tissue paper
- One Great Hour of Sharing fish bank, one per child (order at [pcusastore.com](http://pcusastore.com), item 12138-17-125)
- 1 assembled One Great Hour of Sharing fish bank with coins in it

Good morning!

When you think about birthdays, what do you think of? (*parties, gifts, cake...*)

What are we celebrating when we celebrate birthdays? (*turning another year older*)

Today I want to tell you about something that turns 70 years old this year! I have a gift to share with you that might help explain exactly what it is that's 70 years old. (*Show the children a gift box or gift bag and let them open it to reveal the One Great Hour of Sharing fish in it*).

*If your church has used the One Great Hour of Sharing fish banks before, ask...Hmmm...fish! Have you ever seen these fish before? Does anyone know what we do with these fish?*

Yes, we are celebrating the 70th birthday of The One Great Hour of Sharing offering this year! These fish banks are one of the ways we collect money for the One Great Hour of Sharing. One Great Hour of Sharing is an offering of money we and many other Presbyterian churches around the country give at this time of year.

The money collected from the One Great Hour of Sharing goes to help people in our country and countries all over the world:

- People who are recovering from natural disasters like hurricanes or floods or human-caused disasters like school shootings
- People who are hungry and need sustainable food resources
- People are aren't treated fairly or need assistance in creating a better future for themselves and their family

And One Great Hour of Sharing has been helping people all over the world for the last 70 years!

So as we celebrate One Great Hour of Sharing's birthday this year, YOU get to share the gift of God's love through your generous giving.

Each one of you will receive a fish bank to use during this season. You can collect coins and dollar bills in your fish banks. Bring them back on (*date – some churches designate either Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday or both*) and your money will be part of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering we receive on that day.

Thank you for sharing the gift of God's love through the One Great Hour of Sharing!

Let's close in prayer together – *use this prayer or one of your own*

Dear God,

Thank you for birthdays and presents and celebrations. We are glad that we can give a gift to you, God, by giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing. May our gifts be used to help those who are hungry or hurting or treated unfairly. Help us to be generous as we join with others to create a better world. Amen.

*Jenna Campbell, a Certified Christian Educator serving as the Director of Children and Youth Ministry at First Presbyterian Church in Stillwater, Oklahoma*