

Activity: Sharing

By Karen Noal



Teaching Goal: God wants us to share.

Scripture: 2 Kings 4:1-7 Story of Elisha and the widow. Used a small jar of oil and through a miracle, filled all the jars in her home.

John 6:1-13 Story of a little boy who shared his lunch and Jesus multiplied it.

Materials: Piece of paper
Scissors
Package of candy such as skittles or M&Ms

In Advance: Put candy in a cupboard or closet to be retrieved later by a child. Read the two Bible stories ahead of time so you are familiar with them and can tell them in your own words.

- I. Play theme song
- II. Pray
- III. Review last lesson
- IV. Lesson and discussion

☺ Words that are written in **bold** are when you, the parent, are speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A. **ACTIVITY #1: What does it mean to share?** *To let others use or have things of ours. Did you know that God wants us to share? Everything we have comes from God and He likes it when we share with others. What are some ways God provides for us? Gives us a job to buy what we need, friends to help us, clothing to keep us warm etc.* Tell the two Bible stories in your own words – appropriate to the age level of your children.

When we share what we have with others, God is pleased. We can always trust God to provide for us and should not be afraid of sharing what we have with others. We're going to do a little experiment. Hold up one piece of paper. **How many points does this paper have?** Count the corners. *Four* **When I cut off a point and give you one, I am sharing. What if I said, "I don't want to share my corner points with you." How many will I have?** *Still four.* **Watch what happens when I do share!** Cut off a corner and hand it to child. **Where there was one point, now there are two!!** Demonstrate again with another corner. **Each time I give away a point I get more. When I cut off all four corner points, how many do I end up with?** Count out eight points with the children. **God does the same for us. It may not happen right away like this did, but God knows when we give and He is pleased. He will multiply what we give to others just like the story of the widow and the little boy who shared his lunch.** Point out that the person who received a corner, received three points – not just one!

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B. ACTIVITY #2: Ask a child to go get the candy you put away earlier. **Thank you so much for bringing me this candy. I was really hungry.** Open the package and begin to eat the candy, but do not share. **This candy is really hitting the spot. I'm so glad you brought it to me. Thank you again.** As you eat the candy, talk to the children about sharing and the Bible stories you just told them. As children watch you eat and not share they will want some too. After about 2 minutes, share the candy.

How did it make you feel that I didn't share with you? *Sad, jealous, hungry.* Ask the child who brought the candy to you, **"How did it make you feel that you gave me this candy, and I didn't share with you?"** **How do you think it makes God feel when He gives us things and we don't share them with others?** *It makes Him sad too.* **One of the ways God blesses us when we share is by an inner feeling of joy because we did the right thing. Another way we are blessed is that others will learn from our example and share, too! Then they will please God and share with even more people – they may even share with you!**

V. Memorize

**When I share, God will surely bless,
In lots of ways, we'll get more, not less.**

VI. Close in Prayer

VII. Pass It On

Pray and ask God to bring to your mind another family that would benefit from this activity. Make an extra copy of this lesson and *pass it on*. You may also know a children's minister who would like to share this lesson with other families.