



**FOOD FOR
THE HUNGRY**

POVERTY NO KIDDING!

Helping kids make sense of poverty

Can kids “get” poverty? Yes! So let’s help children navigate the messy stuff they encounter here at home or around the globe. Children are aware of social issues like never before. By helping them understand scary things, we can see them thrive, and in turn, even help others.

Poverty—no kidding! is a resource that will help children make sense of the hard stuff and foster healthy, Christ-centred responses to poverty. You might learn something, too!

Hello Teachers!

We have created each lesson with some key elements to give you a structure and make this as effortless as possible.

At the beginning of each lesson, look for a Teaching Summary to give you an overview of the goals and what we hope kids will learn. Then you’ll see the scriptures used, main objective, activities, and some tips on how to prepare for the session.

At the end of the lesson plan is an FAQ that aims to provide answers to the questions children might ask throughout these lessons.

And remember, you don’t have to be an expert on the topic of poverty to tackle these lessons. We’ve included some additional resources to support your learning and help you feel equipped. But if you run into difficulties or have questions, don’t hesitate to contact us at education@fhcanada.org.

Thank you for the part you’re playing in raising Christ-centred, healthy, helping children.

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Lesson One:

WHAT IS POVERTY?

Teaching Summary:

- Poverty. It's a loaded word! Let's unpack it. What does poverty mean? What causes it? Is the opposite of poverty wealth? When we see poverty the way God does, we get closer to how he wants us to respond. **Let's get curious!**
- In this lesson, kids will begin to grasp what poverty is: broken relationships. Kids will begin to understand that people around the world experience everyday life very differently from them, but we all experience poverty because we all experience broken relationships.
- For example, some people do not know who God is; not everyone has access to the same opportunities; some people have hurt friendships; some people don't have clean water to drink or enough food to eat.

Preparation:

- You will want an open space for the activities, but also a space where you can gather the kids in for intentional conversation.
- Be open-minded and patient about the conversations about poverty. Nudge children towards thoughtful answers, and don't rush to give them the "right" answers. If all goes well, the conversation and activities will allow kids to come to a healthy conclusion.



Teaching Video

Watch this helpful instructional video.



<https://vimeo.com/fhcanada/poverty-no-kidding-1?share=copy>

Scripture:

Matthew 25:35-40

Activities:

Jenga

Supplies: a Jenga Set or smooth building blocks.

Life Wheel

Supplies: printable wheel/pie diagram, cardboard circle, pie plates, adhesive, pencil crayons.

Main Objective:

Help kids start to grasp "poverty"—and that we all experience poverty of some sort.

Large Group



OPENING PRAYER

*Jesus, thank you for loving us and for providing for us.
Help us to have eyes to see those in need around us.
Amen.*



LESSON



ASK: What is “poverty”?

Allow kids to take turns and answer.

ASK: What kind of poverty have you seen?

Respond with affirmation to emphasize that there are many forms of poverty.

SAY: Poverty is more than just not having money or stuff.

It goes all the way back to the beginning! When God created the heavens and the earth, he made a beautiful garden for people to live in and care for that would meet all of their needs for food, water, and good relationships.

But the very first people, Adam and Eve, decided not to obey God’s good rules for life in the garden. They broke their friendship with God.

Because of this, their relationships with God, themselves, each other, and creation were broken—this is why we have poverty. People—including us!—don’t always take good care of ourselves, our neighbours, our planet, or our friendship with God.

SHARE: Examples of what poverty looks like when relationships are broken with:

- **GOD** - I want to do what is right, but sometimes my brother/sister makes me so mad that I say mean things to him/her. Instead of asking God for forgiveness, I avoid praying because I feel bad about how I acted.

ASK: What are other examples of a broken friendship with God?

- **SELF** - Sometimes I compare myself to my friends and feel like I’m not good enough.

ASK: What are other examples of a broken friendship with yourself?

- **OTHERS** - I was unkind to my classmate at school last week and now they won’t talk to me even though I apologized.

ASK: What are other examples of a broken friendship with others?

- **CREATION** - When I’m finished with my candy, I throw the wrapper on the ground because I think it doesn’t matter and someone else will pick it up.

ASK: What are other examples of a broken friendship with creation?



ACTIVITY: BUILDING BLOCKS OF A HEALTHY LIFE

Build a jenga-type tower.

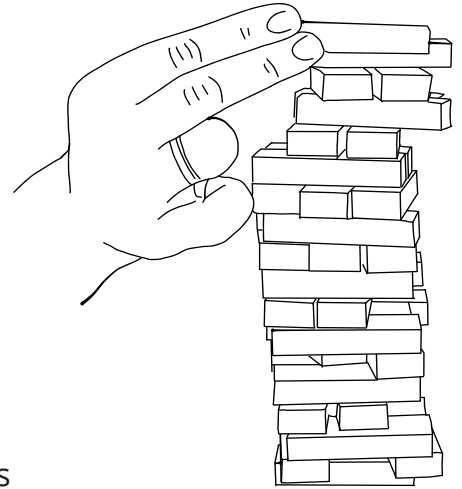
SAY: Each block is like something important that we all need in life. You are going to go to the tower and pull out one block at a time and I'll tell you what each block is.

- Healthy food
- A safe place to sleep
- Going to school
- Helpful friends
- A bible in my language
- Clean water
- Loving family
- School supplies
- Soap to wash your hands

When the tower falls over,

ASK: What happened when we didn't have those important parts of a healthy life?

REFLECT: Not everyone has all the blocks they need to build a healthy life. It's not their fault, they are just missing the blocks they need for the tower to stand tall and strong.



Small Group



LESSON

Divide kids into groups of 4-6.

SAY: When you drive around town, you might have seen people living in tents on the side of the road. Sometimes these people are called "unhoused" or "homeless" because they don't have a house or an apartment to live in.

ASK: Thinking about the Jenga activity we just did, what do you think might be some of the reasons people are missing their "housing blocks"?

LISTEN FOR: Not enough money, no places available to live, no help from family or friends, discrimination, sickness which means they can't work...

SAY: Thanks for all of those ideas. People who live in homelessness are often also experiencing different kinds of poverty. The fact that they do not have a physical home to live in is really only the problem 'on the outside', but usually there is more going on. Remember how we talked about poverty being broken relationships with God, ourselves, other people, and creation?

Teaching Note:

We refer to people being unhoused or experiencing homelessness to avoid defining them by their housing situation. They are so much more than just their lack of a permanent address.

Large Group



LESSON

Bring the kids back together as one group.

READ: Matthew 25:35-40

ASK: What kinds of poverty does Jesus talk about?

- *Hunger, thirst, no house, need clothes, sick, in prison.*

How do we know when or how to help someone?

- *Listen to God and listen to people's stories.*



ACTIVITY: LIFE WHEEL

- Hand out copies of the life wheel attached here, or make your own circle with multiple slices. In the slice sections, add your own categories that make up a healthy life, or have the children brainstorm and write or draw categories (family, job, home, church, friends, school, etc).
- Attach or glue the wheel to a circle cut from cardboard, or to two pie plates attached together.
- Have kids cut out the sections that they think someone experiencing homelessness might be missing in their lives.
- Once they've done so, ask them to try and roll the wheel.

ASK: How easy is it to roll your wheel? What makes it hard to roll?

SAY: Poverty is a hard thing to talk about because it has lots of difficult parts and it can feel sad. But even though it's hard, there's hope. Jesus can heal our broken relationships and we can be part of the solution.

Jesus made a way for us to have those relationships made right. When we ask Jesus to help us heal our relationships with him, ourselves, other people, and creation, we can thrive!

ASK: What do you think it means to thrive?

Read John 10:10 - "A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of." (The Message)



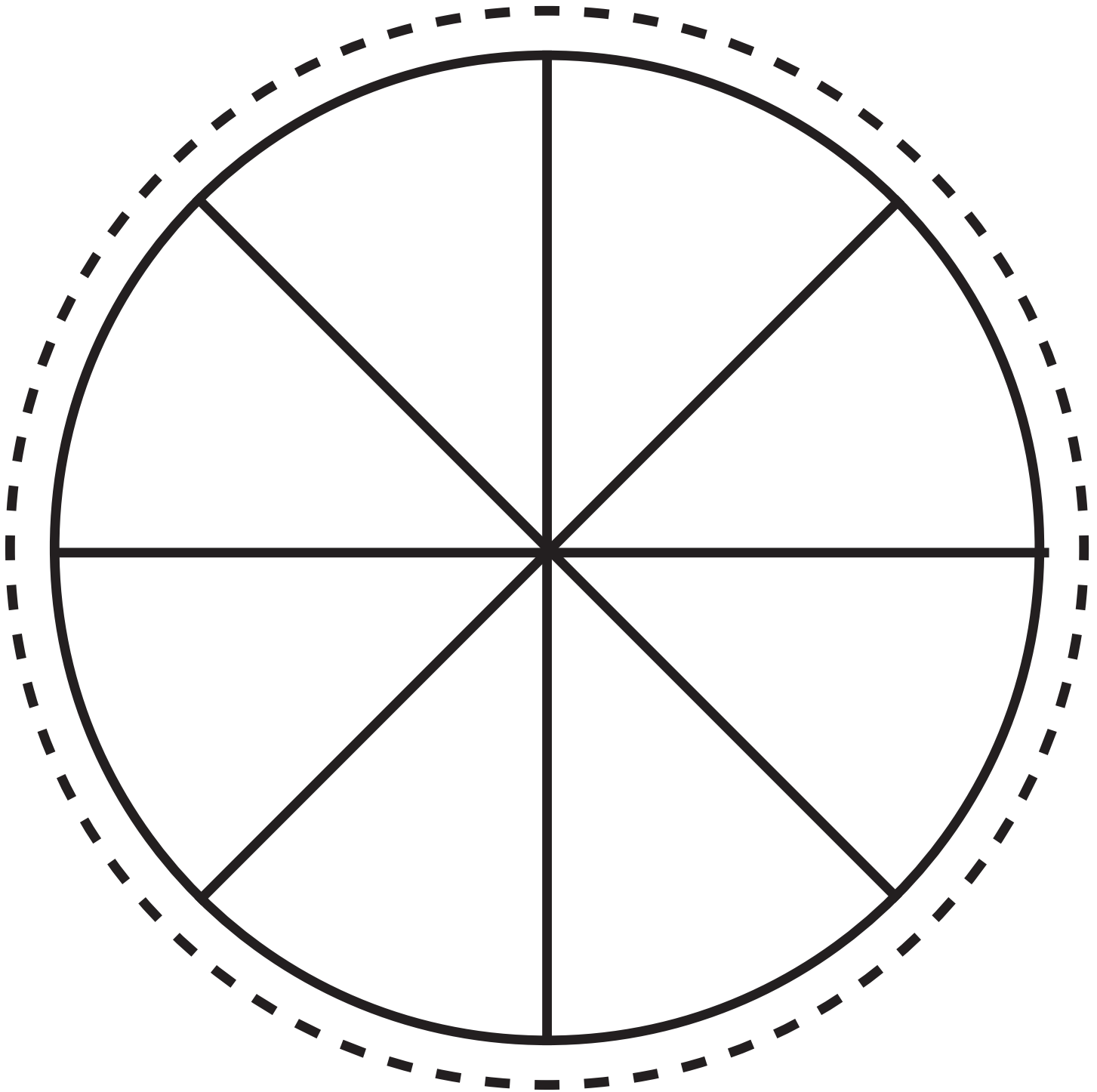
PRAYER

Thank you, God, that you understand all about poverty and that you can help us understand as well. Please help us show your love and kindness so we can all thrive.

Teaching Note:
It's important to point out that not everyone experiencing homelessness has no friends or community.

Teaching Note:
To thrive means to grow or develop well; to flourish.







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Lesson Two:

LIFE IN SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOES

Teaching Summary:

- Cultivating empathy helps us know how we can offer help that is actually helpful and not making the problem worse.
- Everyone has God-given value and potential, just like you! So, let's meet a family that lives in rural Guatemala. Experiencing a glimpse into their day-to-day life can open our eyes to see poverty—and thriving—in both other places and here at home.
- When we listen to others, we can learn what true help looks like—a listening ear, a new suggestion, a helping hand. In this lesson, children will get a glimpse into someone else's life to help them understand that poverty and thriving can look different for everyone. **They'll learn that helping starts with listening and learning**, then taking appropriate action.

Preparation:

- Review the main objective and conclusions from the previous lesson and your time with the children, so that you can carry that learning forward.
- Consider ways you can better visualize the elements of this lesson, without leaning too hard into stereotypes about Latin American families.
- Review the Kids FAQ (page 30) for answers to questions kids may have during this lesson.



Teaching Video

Watch this helpful instructional video.



<https://vimeo.com/fhcanada/poverty-no-kidding-2?share=copy>

Scripture:

2 Kings 4:1-7

The widow and the oil

Activities:

Shoe Game

Supplies: an open space, masking tape

What's New With You?

Supplies: oversized drawing/cutouts of an ear, slips of paper

Main Objective:

Listening and learning first is important to know how to help others.

Large Group



OPENING PRAYER

Jesus, please open our eyes to see how much you love everyone in the world, and to see how other people live and how you want us to treat each other. Amen.



RECAP OF LAST SESSION

Ask the kids what they remember from last week.

- Did they notice anybody or see the world differently this week?
- Did they take time to show someone compassion?
- How did it make them feel?



LESSON

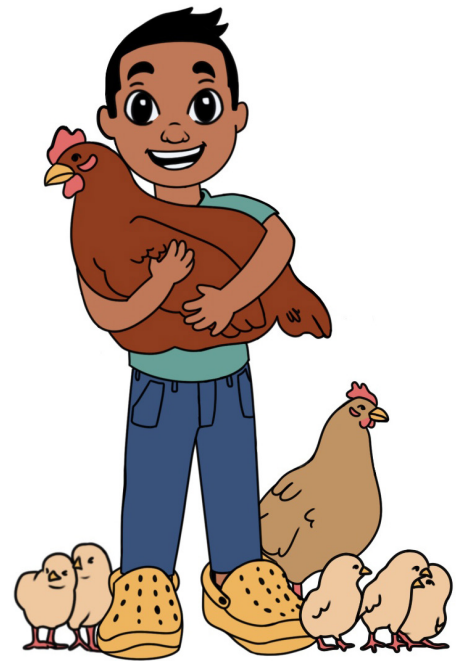
Story: Meet Andrés

Read and show photos:

My name is Andrés¹. I'm six and my sister, Juana, is three. We live in Guatemala with our mom and dad who makes us lots of delicious food! But it wasn't always that way.

We had to work in the field with our mom and dad most days. They worked very hard all day long fertilizing and picking corn and got very little money. We had to live with my grandma and aunts because we couldn't afford to stay in our house.

My mom and dad tried hard to grow our own food but they didn't know a lot about what kinds of things to plant. We didn't have many kinds of healthy food to eat. There are lots of people in my country who have malnutrition. Do you know what that is?



Malnutrition happens when someone doesn't get enough good food with lots of vitamins and minerals to grow strong bones and a healthy body.

But in my family, we eat healthy food now because my mom went to a program called Nutrition For My Family where she learned a lot about how to plant a garden full of healthy, delicious food.

In our family garden, there are many plants, like carrots, that we like to eat very much. Having the garden really helped us have enough food after the big storms hit us.

¹Story is based on true facts; details have been changed to protect identities.

Mom learned lots about how to take care of herself and her family at the Nutrition For My Family group. She goes there with other adults and they learn what to plant, how to take care of the plants, when things are ready to pick, and so much more!

Another great thing about our garden is that we grow more than we need so my mom and dad can sell some vegetables and earn money for things like my school fees and books.

Mom learned so much from this group that she now leads her own group of 10 other farmers. She is a good teacher and helper to other families who are learning to take care of themselves now, too.

ASK:

- What did you learn about Andrés and Juana?
- What part of living with Andrés and Juana's family would you enjoy? What do you think would be hard?
- What is malnutrition?
- How did Andrés and Juana's lives change after someone listened to their need for food, and then shared with their mom new ways to grow nutritious food?

ACTIVITY: WALKING IN SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOES

The Shoe Game

Ask all the children to place their shoes in the middle. Have the children then stand against the walls, or behind lines of masking tape along the floor. Mix the shoes up. On the count of three, have the kids run and grab the first two shoes they can touch—do not try to find the matching pair! Alternatively, you could hand each child two random shoes.

Ask the kids to put on the shoes they were given and walk around the room. They may have the wrong size or two left shoes, and that is part of the learning! If you want to be more elaborate, create a simple obstacle course they need to go through while never losing a shoe.

Small Group

LESSON

Bring the kids back together as one group.

ASK:

- What was it like walking in someone else's shoes?
- Were they comfortable?
- Did they hurt your feet?
- When you think about Andrés and Juana, what do you think it would be like to "walk in their shoes"? To live in their community?
- What else could we do to try and "walk in someone else's shoes"?

Teaching Note:
Consider trying some of the same foods as eaten in Guatemala like vegetables, tortillas, corn, beans, and rice.

SAY: We heard a story from Andrés in Guatemala about his life so we feel like we got to know him a little bit. When we get to know someone, we can understand better what it's like to “walk in their shoes”—to see life like they do.

Andrés and his family are moving out of poverty because they had people who cared about them and who became their friends and teachers.

We can help people, too, by listening to their stories and getting to know them so we can know the best way to help.

ASK:

- How could you be a friend to someone and get to know them?
- What would you want someone to do to be your friend?
- Do you remember what poverty is?

SAY: When we are kind to people and listen to their stories, we can begin to help end poverty. When we listen carefully, we get clues about what makes our friends and family happy, sad, angry, disappointed, and so much more. We also learn what they need.



Large Group

LESSON

We listen and help as best we can and let God take care of the outcome

READ: 2 Kings 4:1-7

ASK:

- What problems did this woman have?
No food, no money, sons to be taken by creditors
- What did Elisha do for the woman?
Asked her what she needed, provided a solution—if she decided she wanted to do it.
- What was the solution to her problem?
Gathering jars from neighbours and pouring oil into them. Selling the oil to live on.
- She only had a little bit of oil to start with. How did it fill so many jars?
God multiplied it.

SAY: Elisha helped the widow by listening to her. We can listen to people, too, and maybe sometimes we can make suggestions once we hear what the person needs and what they have. The woman needed money to pay debts and she had oil in her house.

In our earlier story, Andrés' mom and dad needed more food for his family and they had land, intelligence, and a desire to work hard. With both the widow and Andrés' family, they chose whether they wanted to follow their friends' suggestions and try something new.

In both cases, it was God who solved their problems—he made oil flow for the widow and vegetables grow for Andrés' family. We listen, love, and offer help as best we can, and it's God who is responsible for the outcome.

Teaching Note:
The philosophical answers are: broken relationships with God, ourselves, other people, and creation. The children may have any number of answers again, so do your best to steer them back to these bigger-picture concepts.



ACTIVITY: WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?

- Pair the kids off by twos. Give each pair one giant, cardboard ear.
- Write get-to-know-you questions on slips of paper, one question per slip (examples provided, but feel free to prepare your own). Give each pair two or three questions—a mix of “fun” and “stuck”—to ask each other in order to learn something about the other person. Have the listening child hold the ear to remind themselves it's not their turn to talk yet.
- Come back together as a group and ask kids what they learned about the other person by listening to them. Or ask the kids to introduce their partner using the new information they learned. Did they have any suggestions for how their partner could deal with any of their “stucks”?
- We can learn how people are thriving and how they might need some help by doing good listening. God invites us to help end poverty by listening to others, learning what their lives are like, then offering the right kind of response. We don't have to end their poverty for them; we can trust God to do the miracles of healing and ending poverty!

Possible “fun” questions:

- *If you could have any pet what would it be?*
- *If you could have any superpower, which would you choose and why?*
- *What is your favorite book?*
- *What is your favorite sport?*
- *What do you most want to learn how to do?*
- *What is your favorite holiday?*
- *What do you want for your next birthday?*
- *If you could only eat one thing for dinner for the rest of your life, what would it be?*

Possible “stuck” questions:

- *What is your least favorite breakfast food?*
- *What kind of consequences do you get at home when you do something wrong?*
- *What school assignments are hard for you?*
- *Is there anything in your room right now that's broken and you don't know how to fix it?*
- *Is there any kid at school who is unkind to you? What do they do?*

Teaching Note:

*If you have the book, **The Very Cranky Bear**, it could be read here to illustrate how the three friends approached the bear's problem. In the book each friend tried to be generous but the thoughtful friend who asked questions and listened well, heard what the bear's need was and met the need for him.*



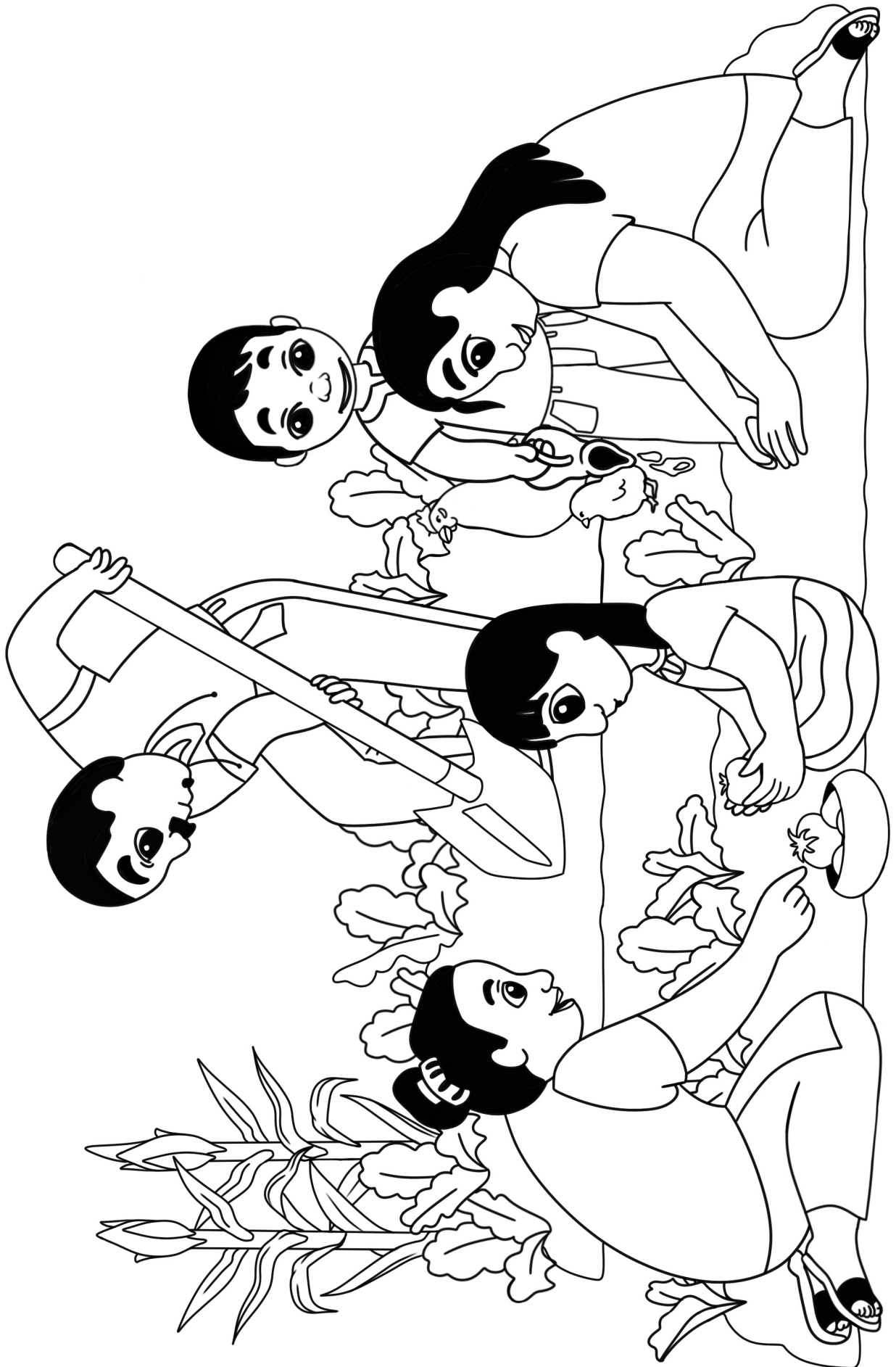
PRAYER

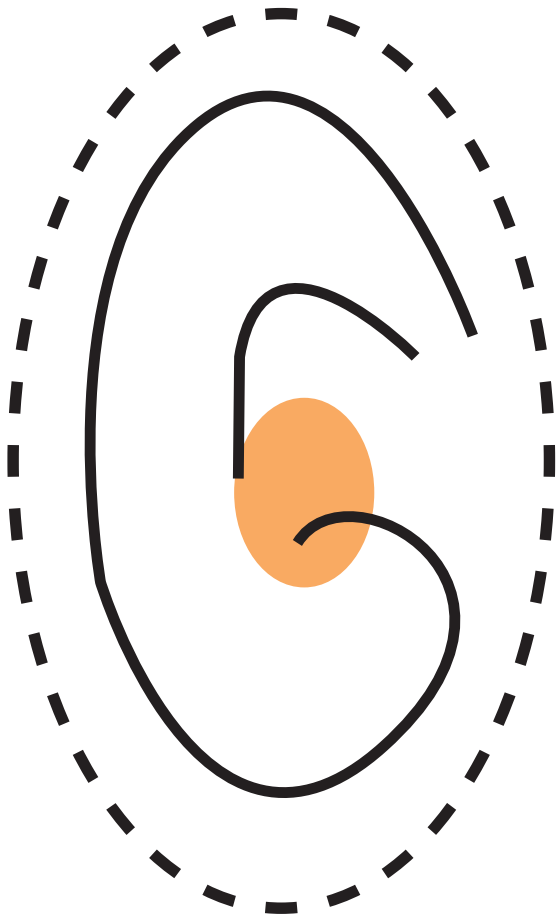
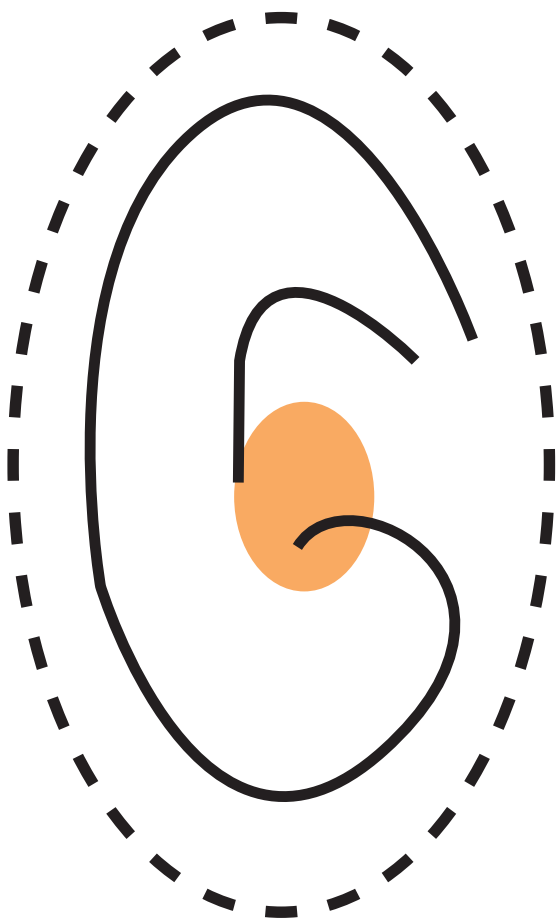
Dear God, thank you so much that you have given us ears to listen to other people so we can know what kind of poverty they are feeling and to hear what they need. Please help us listen to your Holy Spirit to know what we can do to help. And please help us to be willing to tell people we trust when we need help too. Amen.











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Lesson Three:

GOD MULTIPLIES WHAT WE GIVE!

Teaching Summary:

- Sometimes, it can be hard to share what we have because we are afraid that we won't have enough. But when we live generously, we discover how life-giving generosity can be for us, too! And, when we pray, God multiplies what we do! Let's help children know that it's not just about doing or giving more. We need to listen to the Holy Spirit and give what Jesus asks us to give without being afraid of the outcome. **Jesus will make sure we all get enough!**
- It's important that children don't feel they have to solve everything. We have a responsibility to participate in solutions, but we're not responsible for outcomes. Those are up to God.

Preparation:

- Today's lesson will serve as a bridge towards personal action, but it's important to realize our reliance on God. This can be a tricky connotation for a child, but a child can also lean into faith in a way hardened adults don't!
- This lesson relies on conversations and demonstrations. You may need to tweak the questions and activities to suit your students' ages and energy levels.



Teaching Video

Watch this helpful instructional video.



<https://vimeo.com/fhcanada/poverty-no-kidding-3?share=copy>

Scripture:

John 6:1-13

Activities:

What's in Your Basket?

Supplies: baskets or containers, basket covering (e.g. a tea towel), a mix of food and household items, a can opener

The Mighty Seed

Supplies: A) small pots, soil, seeds OR B) apples, paring knife

Main Objective:

We can only do so much, but when we live generously God multiplies what we do!

Large Group



OPENING PRAYER

God, I am only one person, but I'm one person who wants to make an impact for your Kingdom. Please use me to help feed the hungry, provide water for the thirsty, and teach others about the love of Jesus. Please help me to be part of a bigger group of people who love you and want to grow our hearts for giving. Amen.



RECAP OF LAST SESSION

Ask the kids what they remember from last week.

- Did they notice anybody or see the world differently this week?
- Did they take time to show someone compassion?
- How did it make them feel?



LESSON

SAY: Let's think about the family we met last week from Guatemala. Do you remember that they didn't have enough food? What might have happened if Andrés' mom and dad went to a friend and said, "I don't have enough food for my family"?

- What could the friend have said or done? (Given her food, criticized them.)
- If the friend had given them five carrots and some tortillas, how long do you think Andrés' family would have had full bellies? (A day or two.)

But that's not what happened with Andrés' family. When her mom talked to a Food for the Hungry friend, that friend listened and asked her lots of questions like, "What do you need?" and "What kind of work do you like to do?" Then the friend thought about what she had to give that could help Andrés' family solve their problem for good.

The friend asked, "Would you like to learn how to grow a garden so you can have healthy food every day for your family?" Andrés' mom said yes!

Because the Food for the Hungry friend listened to Andrés' mom and gave from what she had, she knew how to best help Andrés' family.



ACTIVITY: WHAT'S IN YOUR BASKET?

SAY: We are going to play a game now where listening is very important. It's called, "What's In Your Basket?"

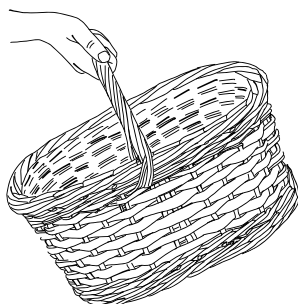
Explain how it works.

- Hand a small basket with a lid (or tupperware) to all the children except one. Give the child with no basket the can opener and instruct them to say, "I'm hungry! Can you help me? I don't have anything to trade you or pay you. I do have a can opener. Also, I hate broccoli."

- Each child takes turns opening their basket to see what they have to share. They can ask the hungry child questions about what they like and have (or don't have). They can choose to share or not.

After the children all have the opportunity to do the activity, ask if it was hard to decide how to help.

- How did the child feel when her broccoli was rejected?
- How did the child feel when faced with the dilemma to share their cookie?
- How did the child feel when they saw their basket was empty?
- How did the hungry child feel when offered things they didn't want or couldn't use?



SAY: Listening to what a person says they need/want and thinking and praying about what we have to share are important steps in ending poverty. When we feel we don't have anything to share, we should always offer friendship and prayer—they are powerful gifts!

Small Group LESSON

SAY: Imagine that your teacher has given you a sheet of math problems to solve (or adjust the activity for younger students, if necessary—a colouring page, a maze, etc.).

Your friend says that he doesn't know how to do math and he sees that you're already done with your sheet. He asks you to do his math for him. What will you do?

ASK: What might happen to your friend if you just do his math work for him? (He won't learn.) What is another option you have to help him learn math for himself?

Teaching Note

Encourage all the children to ask the hungry child questions about the kind of help they want and what they have, then listen carefully to his/her answers. It's a valuable opportunity to demonstrate how we ask people if they want help before we jump in, and to ask what kind of help they would like.

Example of how to prepare the baskets

- Basket 1: Broccoli
- Basket 2: A watch
- Basket 3: One cookie
- Basket 4: Empty
- Basket 5: A toonie
- Basket 6: Tin of tuna fish (but no can opener)
- Basket 7: A book

Teaching Note

- *Encourage comments about listening, asking questions, offering to teach him how to do it, going to the teacher with him to ask for help.*
- *Point out that you might feel really good in the moment by doing his work for him, but it wouldn't be what's best for your friend and if he keeps asking you, you might get annoyed with him. It could hurt your friendship.*

Large Group



LESSON

READ: John 6:1-13

ASK:

- Do you think the boy with the loaves and fish felt a little worried that he wouldn't have anything to eat when he gave his food to the disciples?
- Do you think he ever imagined his lunch could feed thousands of people?
- Now, let's really think, what small things do you have that you could share with others?

ASK: Did you notice what key thing Jesus did before he shared the boy's lunch? He prayed! Then God multiplied the boy's gift.



ACTIVITY: THE MIGHTY SEED

Option A: Planting Seeds

Fill small pots with potting soil and have kids place three seeds in each pot.

SAY: When you see the seeds grow into plants, remember that the small ways you are kind and generous can grow into something much bigger, with God's help. And when we do loving things, we become more loving, too. God can use our small actions to grow great things and to change us.

Option B: Only One Apple

ASK:

- Do you see the few seeds inside this apple? If you plant these seeds, they will grow into five apple trees. From just one little apple!
- How many apples do you think those apple trees will produce together? Hundreds? Thousands? One little apple can produce trees that will grow thousands of other apples!
- These seeds also show us that doing something small can make a big impact in someone's life.



PRAYER

READ: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

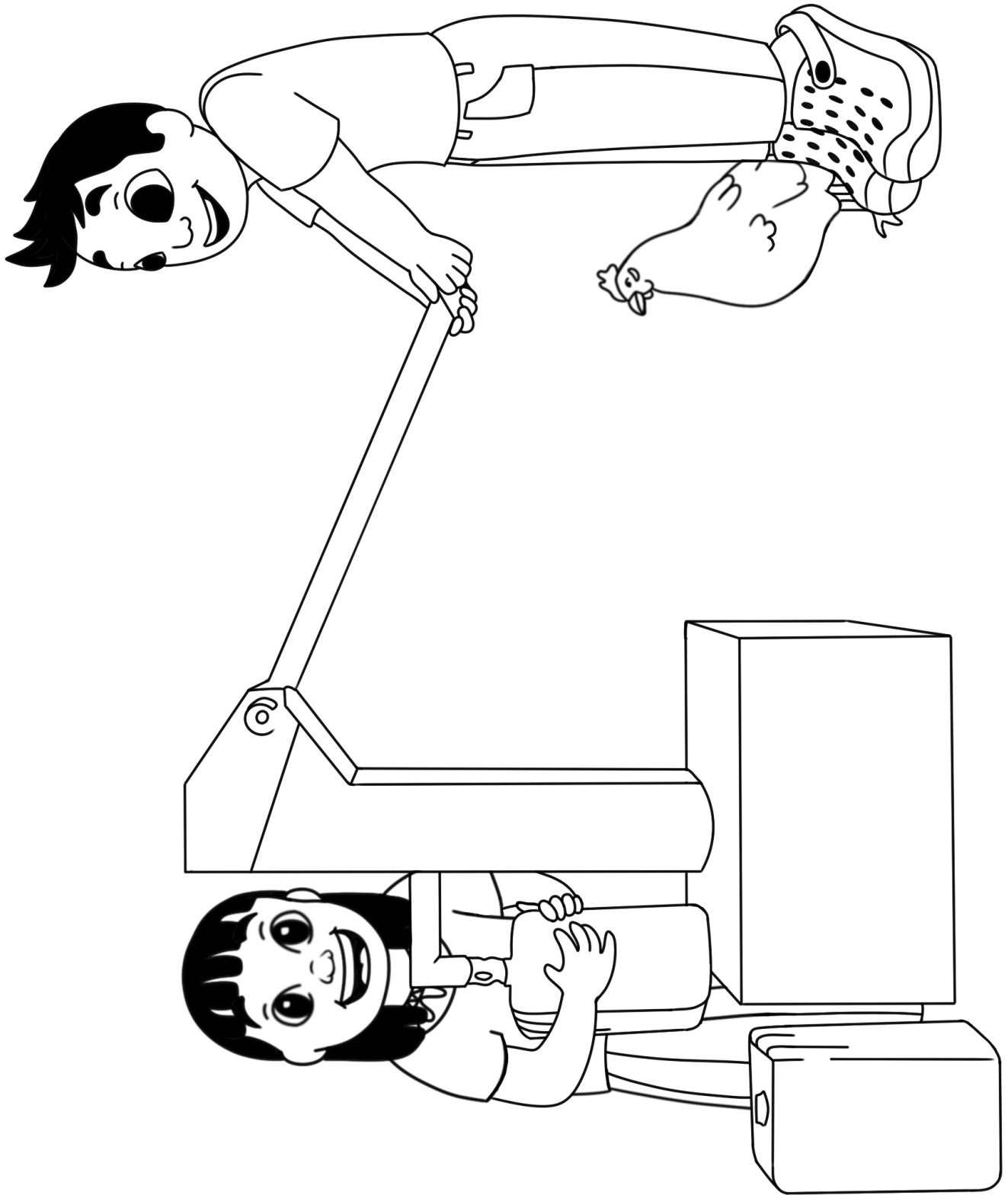
SAY: Prayer is something that we can all do no matter how old we are, or how much money we have, or where we live. We can pray!

For our prayer today, we're going to do something a little different called popcorn prayer. When corn kernels get hot they pop open really quickly. Let's take a minute to pray for those who might be hungry or need our help. So, it might be: *Dear God, please help Andrés' garden to keep growing good food.* Or something like that. Ready?

Teaching Note:
Remind the kids that they can share time, a listening ear, prayers, friendship, knowledge (like how to ride a bike or tricks to get to the next level on a video game), food, money, laughter, and joy.

Teaching Note:
Can refer to Matthew 13:31-32





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Lesson Four:

THE POWER OF GIVING TOGETHER

Teaching Summary:

- In the face of big need, we can feel small. But even the smallest acts of love make a difference. We can sit with someone left out at recess, volunteer with family, or ask God to build healthy relationships. Together, we'll take on a challenge and put what we've learned into action by completing an act of kindness or making a donation as a group.
- In this lesson, children will learn tangible ways to show kindness and make a difference, together! They'll learn that even small acts of kindness done together can grow and make a big difference in the lives of others.

Preparation:

It can feel cliché that little things can lead to big things. But we all need to learn that somewhere! Inspiring meaningful actions and habits that actually help others will require some thoughtful conversation. Convenient answers aren't usually the best answer. We hope kids will surprise you!



Teaching Video

Watch this helpful instructional video.



<https://vimeo.com/fhcanada/poverty-no-kidding-4?share=copy>

Scripture:

Acts 4:32-34

Activities:

Ripples

Supplies: basin of water, a pebble

Popcorn

Supplies: oil, popcorn seed, popcorn popper/machine/pot, small cups

Piggy Bank

Supplies: plastic bottle, scissors, coloured paper, adhesive, beads/bottle caps

Main Objective:

When we work together, even the smallest acts of kindness can make a big difference!

Large Group



OPENING PRAYER

Thank you God that you've given us ears to listen, minds to think, and hands and feet to help people. Please grow in us hearts that show your love to others. Amen.



RECAP OF LAST SESSION

Ask the kids what they remember from last week.

- Did they notice anybody or see the world differently this week?
- Did they take time to show someone compassion?
- How did it make them feel?



LESSON & ACTIVITY: RIPPLES

Have a basin with water in it on a table the children can gather around.

SAY: Remember when we talked about what poverty is a few weeks ago? It's a big problem, isn't it? Sometimes when we have big problems, we feel very small, and like we can't do anything about the problem. Or maybe sometimes you feel like you can't help much because you're not an adult. Do you ever feel like that? Come and gather around this table. I want to show you something:

Hold up one small pebble.

ASK: What do you think is going to happen when I drop this pebble into the water? Is the pebble going to touch every side of the basin?
No, it's just going to drop to the bottom, isn't it?
But let's watch what happens to the water when the pebble goes in.

Drop the pebble into the center of the basin from about a foot above, so more ripples are created.

ASK: Did you see how the water moved once the pebble hit it? It made ripples, didn't it? And those ripples went all the way out to the edge of the basin, far away from where the pebble hit the water. Such a tiny pebble caused the water to move so much!

SAY: The same is true for us when we do small acts of kindness or giving—remember the boy with the small lunch from last week? You do one small thing right here but God can make the ripples of your generosity go much further.



ACTIVITY: POPCORN

Give one child a small jug of oil. Give another child a popcorn popper or pot. Give each remaining child a cup with unpopped popcorn seeds in it. Have them come together and dump the seeds into the popcorn popper. Ask the child with oil to add a bit of oil.

ASK: What's missing? Why aren't we making popcorn?

SAY: We're missing heat! Our prayers are the heat that multiply our gifts. Our individual gifts may be small, but when we combine them and give them to God, like adding heat to the oil and popcorn kernels, he multiplies our gifts so that we all have enough.

Pull out the giant bowl of popped popcorn you've been hiding and share with all the kids!

Small Group

4. LESSON

Divide kids into groups of 4-6.

SAY: There are many small things you can do to make a big difference for a vulnerable person/people in need.

- What are some ways you can make a difference or help another person?

ASK: Do you know that you have one of the most powerful ways to help someone have a better day? Any idea what it could be? (Your smile!)

SAY: Turn to the person sitting beside you and sit face to face. One of you will try to keep a serious, straight face. The other one will give a great big smile and make as many happy, silly faces as they can. If you're the serious one, you are going to try and not smile.

ASK: How hard was it not to smile?

When we smile at other people, especially when you're a kid, it can make a huge difference in the other person's day. Your smile could cause a ripple that helps heal someone's poverty of loneliness or sadness.

READ: Acts 4:32-35

SAY: Once we have listened well, we can pray and ask God what we should share.

ASK:

- What do you think it means to be generous? (Giving more than expected, showing kindness.)
- What are some ways you can be generous with your friends?
- How can you help your family?
- Do you ever feel like you're too small to help or give?

SAY:

In the story we just read, the new Christians shared what they had so that no one would be in need. They also put together some of their money so the Apostles could share it with others who still might have needs. There's a verse in the Bible that says we should decide in our heart what we can give and then give it generously, with a glad heart (2 Corinthians 9:6-7).



Teaching Note:

Listen for things like: donating clothing and toys to thrift stores who help people in need; saving money to give to charities who help people stuck in extreme poverty; helping an elderly neighbour pull weeds; making eye contact and smile at people; and, learning people's names.

Remember how we talked about ways we can give or help others? One of those ways is to save our money and give it directly to someone in need or to an organization that helps people in ways that we can't do on our own. And when we put our money together, we can make an even bigger difference!

And remember how we talked about poverty starting because of broken relationships? Every time we are kind to someone or help someone, we are helping to end poverty.

Teaching Note:

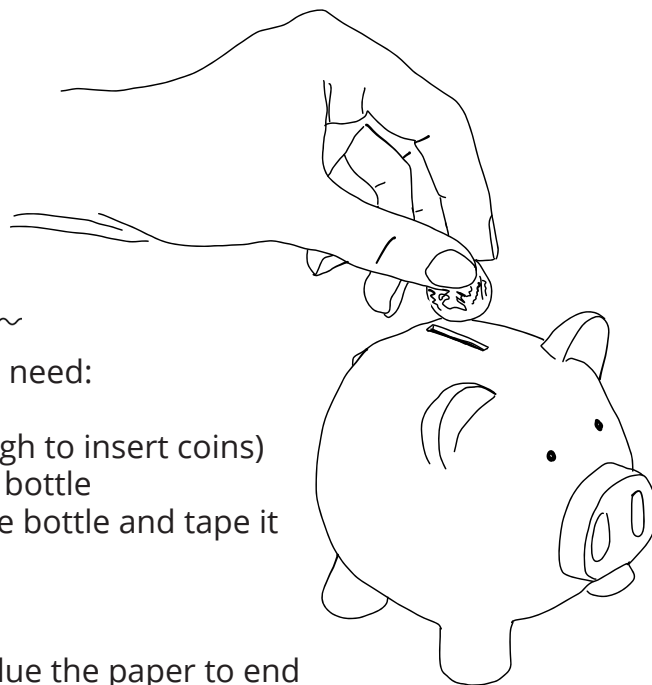
Food for the Hungry has a Gift Guide that we've found works well as a class goal for saving money. The class chooses an item (like a chicken!) and families are notified of the class goal to purchase this item. The Gift Guide items are given to people who are already partnered with Food for the Hungry and have expressed need and desire for the gift. For example, if it's a goat, the recipient receives training on care of the animal and then shares the first offspring and their farming knowledge with a neighbour.

SAY: We're going to make a piggy bank for you to start saving and have a reminder that we can all make a difference in small ways, especially when we work together like the early Christians.

6. ACTIVITY: PIGGY BANK

Create a piggy bank to save money to help those in need:

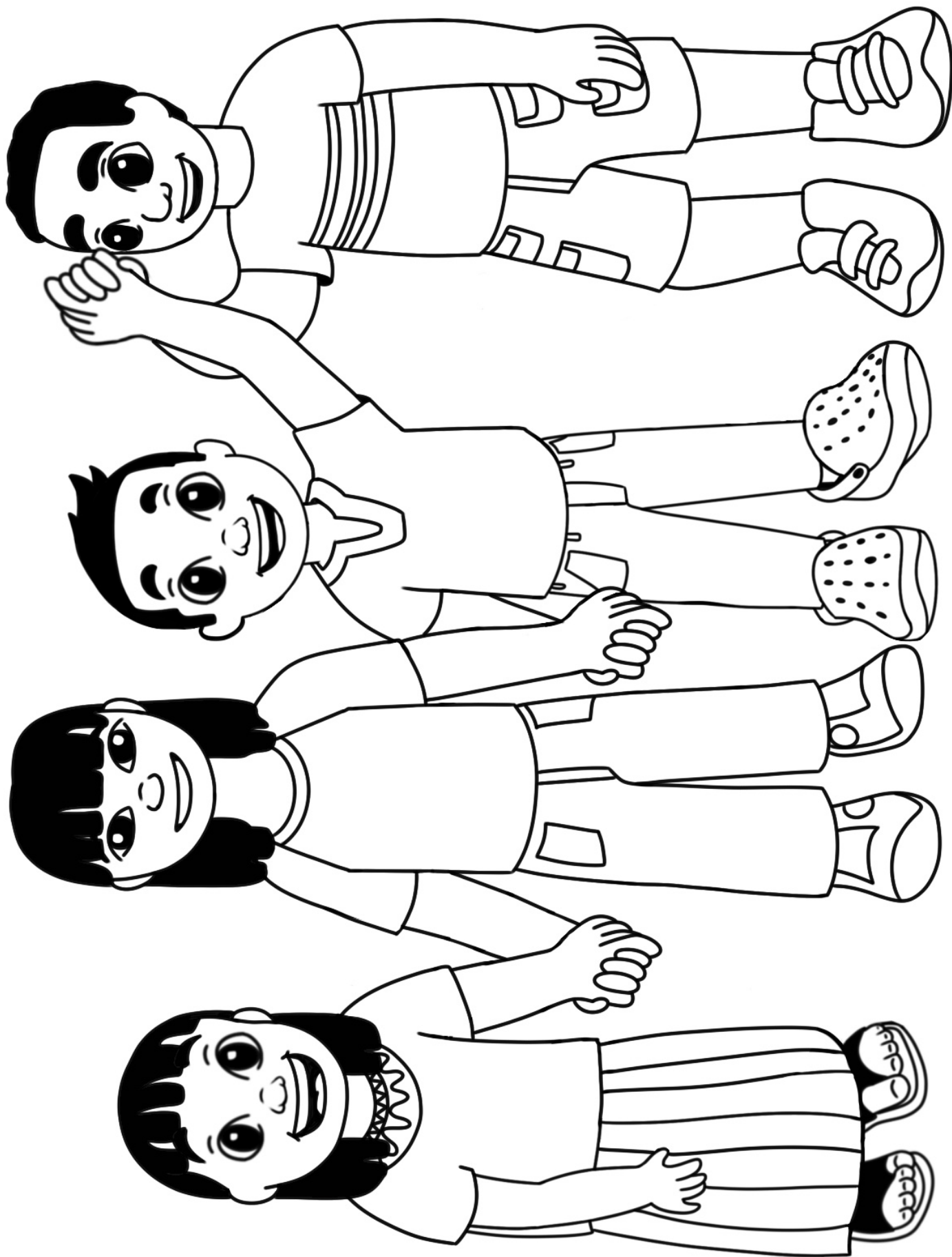
- Use an empty plastic bottle
- Peel off the label and cut a wide slot (wide enough to insert coins) midway between the top and the bottom of the bottle
- Cut a strip of coloured paper to wrap around the bottle and tape it
- Cut a slit through the paper to match the bottle
- Cut out ears and glue them on the paper
- Cut out eyes and glue them on the bottle
- Trace the bottle cap on the paper and cut and glue the paper to end of the bottle cap
- Glue wood beads or small bottle caps as legs under the bottle

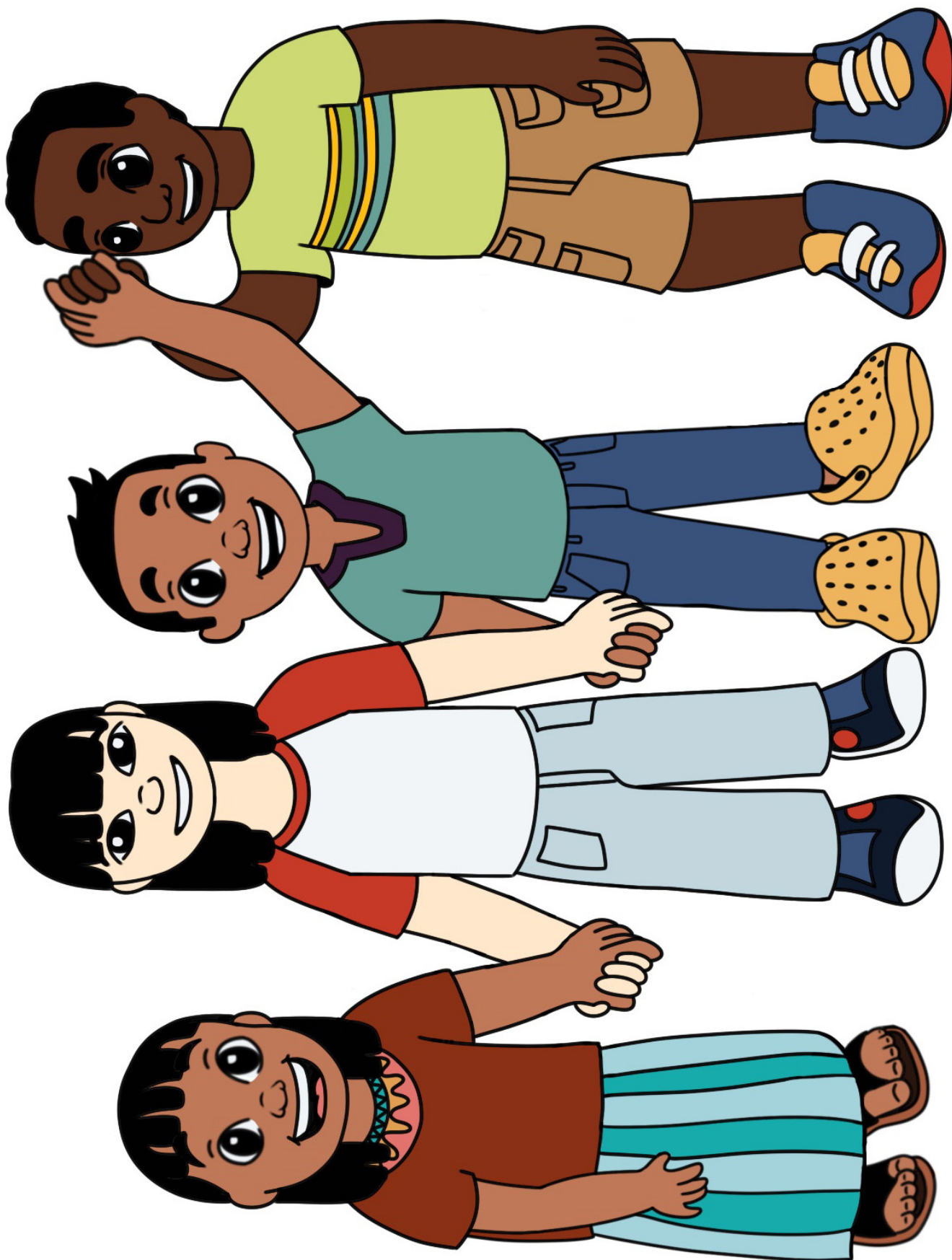


SAY: Now we can begin saving money to reach our class goal!

7. PRAYER

Dear God. Thank you that one of the ways I can help end poverty is by listening and another is by being generous. Please grow in me a desire to listen carefully to people around me, and to give my time and help and money generously. Amen.





Kid FAQ'S

If you need help with this curriculum or have valuable feedback for us, please contact us at education@fhcanada.org

Kids come up with great questions and are often willing to ask what many adults shy away from, and you may feel uncomfortable or ill-equipped to answer. We've included a few questions, with possible answers, to help you feel more equipped to engage with your kids' questions.

Please encourage your class to wonder and ask questions, and keep in mind that you don't have to have all the answers. Feel free to say that you don't know but that you'll find out and get back to them next week. You can always reach out to us at Food for the Hungry, if you need some help.

- **Why does God allow poverty?**

God loves us and lets us make our own decisions. Sometimes our decisions hurt him, ourselves, each other, or nature. Jesus came to heal our hurts. He gave us the Holy Spirit so we can make good decisions that will help heal others' hurts and stop poverty.

- **If God is good, why are people hungry and sick?**

Hunger and many sicknesses are caused by the choices humans have made over many years. God's desire is for everyone to have enough to eat and to have help when they're sick. God calls Christians to help right wrongs in the world so all can eat and be healthy.

- **What do you mean I experience poverty, too?**

Have you ever been mean to a friend or sibling? Have you ever wasted water or dropped trash on the ground? Have you ever said that you hate yourself or called yourself dumb? Those are all different kinds of poverty.

- **How can I help people who are experiencing poverty?**

Listen to what their lives are like, be their friend, offer suggestions where you can. Help them see what they do have that could help them solve a problem.

- **Why don't I see God doing miracles like he did in the Bible?**

Many Christians around the world still tell stories of God doing miracles. Pray and ask God to show you his power and how you can participate in his miracles. Remember, sometimes YOU are God's miracle for someone else.

Kid FAQ'S

- **How does listening to someone help them not be poor anymore?**

Remember that poverty is more than just “not having stuff”.

Loneliness is a form of poverty. By being a friend, you can help end a person’s loneliness. Through your friendship, you might also learn steps they can take to end other kinds of poverty, like not having food or money.

- **There is so much need. How can I help everyone?**

You don’t have to help everyone! God asks us to pray for those in need, and then to help the people he puts in our lives. If every person helps even just one other person, we could end poverty in the world!

- **Will what I give make any difference?**

Yes! Remember the boy with a small lunch that Jesus took and multiplied to feed more than 5,000 people? When you give with a glad and generous heart and ask God to multiply your gift, he will work miracles to help those in need.



**FOOD
FOR THE
HUNGRY**

About Food for the Hungry (FH) Canada

Food for the Hungry (FH) Canada, part of the global FH family, is a Christian, non-profit organization dedicated to ending poverty worldwide. With partners like you, FH walks alongside vulnerable communities throughout the developing world as they strive toward sustainability.

Recognizing that each community faces unique challenges as well as advantages, FH is committed to an integrated, holistic approach to development including priorities such as agriculture, education, health, livelihoods, and gender equality. FH believes in facilitating innovative, long-term solutions and providing everyone an opportunity to join in the pursuit of a poverty-free world. FH Canada currently partners with communities in Bangladesh, Burundi, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Rwanda, and Uganda.

Through international development, Child Sponsorship, and emergency relief, FH strives to relieve all forms of poverty—physical, spiritual, social, and personal—and facilitate sustainable change. FH serves families, churches, and businesses in the pursuit to end poverty, together.

fhcanada.org