

2010 One Great Hour of Sharing Children's Sermons

*And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.
—Micah 6:8*

Introduction

For One Great Hour of Sharing in 2010, we are offering three children's sermons. Each lesson focuses on a different aspect of Micah 6:8. You may want to use these in Sunday school classes or as part of worship, depending on your church's needs. The lessons should begin two weeks prior to the offering celebration, with the third lesson taking places on the day that the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is celebrated.

Offering Boxes

Instead of traditional offering boxes, children can collect coins in a sock or shoebox, which connects to the third aspect of the verse, "walk humbly with your God."

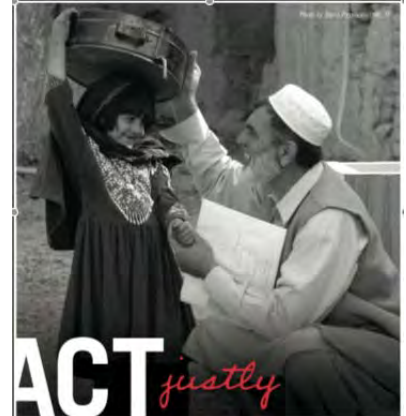
Week 1: Act Justly

Materials

- Stickers for each child
- Clean socks, one for each child to collect coins for the offering

Lesson

Invite the children forward and divide them into two groups. Give each child in the first group two stickers —one to stick on their shirt and one to hold. Then turn to the second group, they will be expecting stickers, too. But just ask everyone to settle down and begin.



Say: Over the next few weeks we'll be talking about this one Bible verse. (Read Micah 6:8.) God gives us a “to do” list in this verse. Who can remember what's on that list? (act justly, love mercy and walk humbly).

The first item on God's “to do” list for us is act justly. This means we should treat people fairly. You can think about this as being fair or doing what's right.

Ask: Can anyone think of anything that might have happened today that wasn't fair? (Someone should remember that they didn't get a sticker.)

Can anyone think of a way to be fair to those who didn't get stickers earlier? (if it doesn't come up, suggest that the children who received two stickers give one to those without any.)

Say: That's great! Now everyone has a sticker.

Ask: What are some ways that you can act justly or be fair to others this week?

Say: We are going to continue talking about this over the next few weeks. In the meantime I want you to do something else to help someone out – it's probably someone you don't know and will never meet. But life hasn't been very fair to this person.

She or he might not have a home, or enough food, or can't send their children to school because they don't have enough money. Two weeks from now we are going to take up an offering to help them. So, over the next two weeks I want you to collect coins for this offering.

Does anyone remember the other items on God's to do list in Micah 6:8? The last one was “walk humbly,” we'll be talking about that. But to help you remember, I want you to collect your coins in these socks.

Prayer

Dear God, help us to speak up when we see injustice and help us to treat everyone fairly. It can be hard for us to do, and we need your help. Thank you, God for always helping us to do the right thing. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

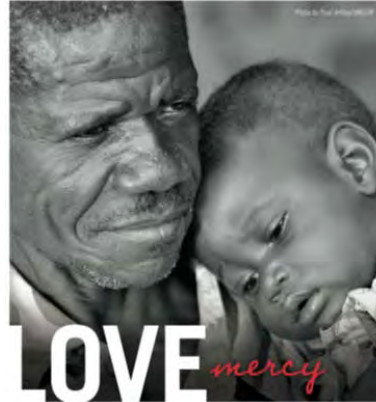
Week 2: Love Mercy

Materials

- A volunteer to help
- Lots of items for the volunteer to carry

Lesson

After the children have gathered at the front of the church or at one end of the room (away from the door) have someone enter who is carrying too many things. That person should step in, drop a few items, pick them up, drop a few more (make a bit of a scene), then the person asks the children if anyone can come help carry his/her bags to the front. Let some or all (as appropriate) go help the person.



Ask: How did it feel to help XXX?

Say: Great! You already have a head start on today's lesson.

Ask: Does anyone remember anything about the verse we talked about last week?

Say: Let's read it again. (Read Micah 6:8.) Last week we talked about acting justly, today we are going to talk about the second item on God's to do list for us: Love Mercy.

Ask: What do you think of when you hear the word "mercy"?

Say: You already showed us how you love mercy. You saw someone in need – XXX had too much to carry—and helped him/her out. That's what mercy is—it sounds easy: helping someone in need. But it's not always so easy.

Ask: Can anyone think about a time when helping someone in need might not be easy?

Say: What if you have something else you'd rather do or what if the person in need is someone you don't like? Then being merciful — and loving it—can be very hard.

God tells us to not only be merciful—help those who need it—God also tells us to love it. That can be the hard part.

Ask: What are some ways that you can "love mercy" this week?

Say: Don't forget to collect coins in your sock banks this week. The money you bring in for your offering will bring help to someone in need—this is another way you can love mercy.

Next week I want all of you to bring your sock banks in to church for our special offering time.

Prayer

Dear God thank you that you help us every day. Please help us to find opportunities to be merciful this week. Give us courage to help people in need. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Week 3: Walk Humbly

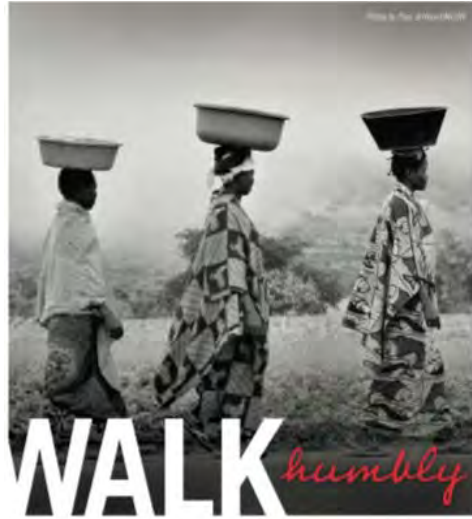
Materials

- Balloon
- Basket or container for the sock banks

Lesson

Say: Welcome back! This is our last week to talk about Micah 6:8.

Ask: Does anyone remember what we talked about the last two weeks on our “to do” list from God? (act justly and love mercy)



Say: Let me read the verse to you again this week. (Read Micah 6:8.)

Ask: What do you think we’re going to talk about today? (Walk humbly)

Say: We sure are! But before we begin, I want to tell you all the great things I did this week. (Really boast about every good thing you did. For each thing you say, for blow one breath into the balloon until it is really full—almost to bursting.)

Ask: What do you think would happen if I kept going? (The balloon would pop.)

Say: Sometimes you can have too much of a good thing. A balloon needs air to look like a balloon, but too much air and it will burst.

I bet listening to my list of all the things I did this week was a bit boring for you. Sometimes we are like this balloon we get puffed up and proud of all the good things we are doing that we forget that it’s God who is beside us helping us all along the way.

Now, the last item on our “to do” list from God is “walk humbly.”

Ask: Why do you think God reminds us to do that?

Say: I know I can forget that I’m walking with God sometimes. When we remember that God is beside me guiding me through every day, I can be happy that I am doing good things, but I don’t get overly proud or boastful because I know God is helping me.

And now we are going to do something to help someone else.

Ask: Did you bring your socks with the coins you collected?

Say: I wanted you to collect your offering in these socks to help you remember that we need to walk humbly with God every day and in everything that we do. Let's all put our offering into this, now.

The special offering we are taking up today will go to UMCOR – an organization in the church that helps all kinds of people in need around the world. They help children go to school and parents to grow good food. They help people who have lost their homes to storms and earthquakes to rebuild. They do a lot of good things and today's offering will help them to continue.

Pray

Dear God, thank you for walking with us and helping us always. Forgive us when we forget that we are walking with you and when we become too proud or boastful. Help us, God, to live the way you want us to live. We pray also for this offering that it will help people in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.