



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING CHILDREN'S SERMON: A Place of Refuge

Scripture

"For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat." Isaiah 25:4 NRSV

Supplies

- A pint-size milk carton filled with milk for demonstration
- One glass
- Several empty milk cartons thoroughly washed out to be used as coin boxes

Lesson

Say: Today we are going to learn what 'Refuge' means.

Ask: Does anyone want to take a guess?

Say: A refuge is a place of shelter, like a home, or a safe place. Refuge can mean different things to different people. For some this is a roof over their heads, or it can mean security—knowing that food is on the table. For others it's having good health care, or an opportunity to go to school or work.

Say: Let's find out how milk can be a refuge. Can you help me?

Ask: Where does milk come from? Pour some milk into a glass

Someone should say cows, but you want to emphasize goats as well

Ask: Why do we need milk?

Strong bones, teeth, nourishment

Ask: What types of food can be made with milk?

Someone should say cheese, bread, pancakes



Explain: We all need milk to help strengthen our bones and make our bodies healthy. But milk can also provide a family income. In some places, people have to buy a goat in order to get their milk. When they purchase a goat, they sell the milk or sell the cheese they make with milk for income. In this way, milk becomes a refuge, by providing a family with security and better health.

God promises to be a refuge. He promises to take care of us when we need him the most. In Isaiah 25:4 it says, "For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat."

Sometimes God asks us to help others by bringing them what they need. When we help bring milk to others, we become a refuge to them.

Pass out the empty milk containers to the children and explain what they are for:

When you collect coins in these cartons for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, you help bring refuge to people. Giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering ensures that 100 percent of your gifts will go to help those most in need.

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for loving us and being a refuge for us by giving us everything we need. Thank you, God, for also for letting us be a refuge for others by bringing people the things they need. Help us, God, to see how we can help others.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.