



MAIN POINT: Share what you have because you have more than enough.
MAIN SCRIPTURES: Mark 12:41-44 & Acts 4:32-37
GOSPEL MOMENT: Jesus shares new life with us when we believe in Him.

THE WHAT?

ME: “Tell a story about a time you shared (or refused to share) something.”

- We’re starting a new series today called Thanks for Sharing. Tell a brief story about a time you shared (or refused to share) something.
- So to get us started, turn to the person next to you and tell a story about a time you shared (or refused to share) something with someone else — a brother or sister, maybe — and what happened next.
- Once you’ve heard your neighbor’s story, say, “Thanks for sharing.” Okay, go!
- *Wrap it up by asking everyone to say together, “Thanks for sharing!” It’s cheesy. And awesome.*

WE: SHARING IS IMPORTANT

- You probably first learned how to share when you were just a few years old and wanted to keep your toys all to yourself.
- Parents, teachers, and even characters on our favorite kids’ TV shows all taught to share at a young age because they knew how important sharing is for our communities.
- Actually, sharing is important for the whole world. Without sharing, our planet would collapse.

IMAGES: The world shares with us.

- *Show an image for each of the following examples.*
- Trees share their oxygen, shade, fruit, and wood. Chickens share their eggs. Lakes share their water and fish. Imagine what would happen if these things stopped sharing with us!

QUESTION: “What can we share with others?”

- But we have things we can share, too. What are some things we can share with others?
- *Let a few students respond (clothes, money, music, pizza, homework answers, etc.).*

SO WHAT?

TRANSITION WITH A PROP: These Snacks Belong to Me

- *Reveal a box of snacks, labeled, “This box, and all its contents, belongs to ___.”*
- You make some good points about sharing, which is awkward because I brought these snacks with me tonight in case I got hungry during this message. I can eat an entire box of these snacks in one sitting, which means I definitely don’t have enough to share, so... sorry.



- Okay, fine, I decided I do have enough snacks. In fact, I have more than enough, so I'd like to share what I have with a few of you and hope that you'll do the same. *Share your snacks with a few people and hopefully they'll share with those around them.*

GOD:

MAIN SCRIPTURE #1: Mark 12:41-44

- In a minute, we're going to read about a group of people that learned to live with each other by sharing what they had with each other. But before we get there, we need to talk about why those people were inspired to share so freely with each other.
- It wasn't because a dinosaur on a kids' show told them to do it.
- It was because a man named Jesus (maybe you've heard of Him) showed them how to live life in a brand new way. And it changed everything for them.
- The book of Mark tells us a pretty interesting story about Jesus and what He thought about sharing. Let's check it out.
- *Read Mark 12:41-44.* It's pretty cool that these really rich people were giving a lot of their money to God and to others, but . . . well, most people (me, included) aren't exactly wealthy.
- But Jesus teaches us something pretty interesting here. By blessing this poor woman who gave the last of what she had, Jesus reminds us that **even if we feel like we have nothing, we still have more than enough to share.**

GOSPEL MOMENT: God was the first person ever to share really, because before we were ever born He planned to share His son Jesus with us. God knew our sin would separate us from a perfect relationship with Him, so He sent Jesus, His son whom He loved so much, to die and pay the penalty for our sins. When we believe Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead, we share in the new life that He has for us. (Ask someone to read Romans 10:9-10)

JESUS' EARLY FOLLOWERS WERE SHARERS

- After Jesus lived, taught, healed, loved, and ate with people here on earth, He died. Then (you might know the story) He rose from the grave, hung out with His friends for a few more weeks, then left them with a reminder to continue living in the same way that He had lived.
- The book of Acts is a book in the Bible that's all about how the early followers of Jesus tried to continue living like Jesus and telling His story after He was gone.
- For these early Christians, it was important to stand out from the rest of the world so people would know they were Jesus' followers. And do you know one of the ways they did that?
- They shared what they had.

MAIN SCRIPTURE #2: Acts 4:32-37

- *Read Acts 4:32-37.* This small community of people were so inspired by the life of Jesus, and they were so convinced that God would continue to provide for them, that they were willing to give whatever they had to help others.



- There's an ancient letter written by a politician name Julien. Julien was complaining about the early Christians because they were so generous they were actually making the government look bad. The Christians, he said, were supporting "not only their own poor but ours as well."
- They did what Jesus taught them to do. And it's something we need to learn and do today.
- **They shared what they had because they knew they had more than enough.**

NOW WHAT?

YOU:

ACTIVITY: What Is Enough?

- Maybe you're thinking, "I hear what you're saying, but I'm not convinced everyone really has 'enough' to share."
- I get it. This idea sounds nice, but when we start to think about sharing our actual stuff, it gets complicated. Let's take a look at a few pictures. For each one, I want to hear if you think the people in these pictures have **more than enough**, **enough**, or **not enough** to share.
 - PICTURE 1: *Hand out a picture of a celebrity, a mansion, or a model in expensive clothes.*
 - PICTURE 2: *Hand out a picture of an average looking family or home.*
 - PICTURE 3: *Hand out a picture of a person who is homeless, hungry, or otherwise in need.*
- It's not always easy to say we have "more than enough" to share, is it? But that's what makes Jesus' teachings so powerful.
- I don't know which of these three pictures you and your family identify with most (and I don't know what the people in these pictures would say about themselves), but according to Jesus, everyone — even someone who other people might consider poor, like the woman in today's story — has something to share.

WE:

WE CAN SHARE WHAT WE HAVE

- We are a community, just like the group we read about in Acts 4.
- Just like those early followers of Jesus, we can be inspired and transformed by Jesus' teachings.
- Just like them, we can set ourselves apart from the rest of the world by the way we care for each other.
- Just like them, we can make a difference if we share what we have.
- As you go back to your home, or out to lunch, or out to the mall, remember how important it is to live like those early followers of Jesus who were transformed by His life and His words.
- **Share what you have because you have more than enough.**

PRAY: God help us to realize how much you have shared with us and how much we have to share with others. Help us to live generous lives and where we constantly see ways we can help others.