

FAST for CHANGE



CHILDREN'S FEATURES & CONVERSATIONS

Enough to Go Around

Object: Use small bag of individually wrapped small candies, such as "Kisses" or caramels. This morning I have a treat for you. Here, I brought a bag of candy for you. (Open the bag, and offer it to the first child.)

Take as much as you want, there seems to be plenty.

(Give the first child a handful, and then offer the opened bag to the next child. Usually that child will try to take as much as the first one received. Continue to offer and if needed hand out the candy to the individual children in various large quantities, until there are only one or two pieces left and several more children. You may have to facilitate this to insure that at least two or more children receive none of the offered candy.)

Whoops! I must have made a mistake. I was sure that I had enough candy here for everyone to have plenty to snack on during the rest of the church service. What went wrong? *(Invariably the children will point out that one child has a handful, and others have more than one piece while some were left out.)*

What should I do about that?" *(Provide time for the children to make suggestions.)*

I can't make the others share with you. After all, I did give it to them! They might think that it is not their fault that some of you only got a little bit and others none. Maybe the ones without should have pushed their way to the front of the line. Or perhaps if they had gotten up here with me when I first announced that it was time for the children's sermon instead of taking so much time getting here then they would not have been left out. What if John or Louisa *(name two of the children who have the most)* think that they deserve all they have because of something that they have done? They may even think that I must like them best because they have so much. They might even think that since I didn't give much candy to some of you or any to others, then it is because I don't like some of you or that I am punishing you for something you did. Do you think that's the way I feel?

(Give them chance to respond.)

You are right. That's not the way I feel. You know something, there is still enough candy here for everyone to have several pieces each if you would all share. Let's try that. *(Encourage the children to share. Most of the time they will work hard to make sure no one is left out and that there is a fairly even distribution. If there is any extra ask that they give that back to you for you to give someone else later who didn't come to the front for the children's sermon.)*

Did you know that there are hundreds of thousands of people in our world who have little or nothing to eat. Those of you who at first didn't get any candy would have been sad that you didn't get any, but you would not have gone to bed hungry today. But there are thousands of persons who are dying slowly today of starvation. The really sad part is that just as there was enough candy for all of you to have some, there is enough food in the world for everyone to have

what they need to live. Like with our candy, some have more than they really need while even more people have nothing at all.

Throughout the Bible we can read about how God has asked those who love and want to honor God to do whatever they can do to help those persons who are poor, other reasons. One way that our church does that is by *(substitute your own adaptation here.)*

The fact that we have plenty to eat is not because we are better people than those who have little or nothing. We may have more than others for any number of reasons. However, one of the reasons may be so that we can know the joy of sharing what we have with others. Can you name some other ways that you can share food with others? *(Allow time for responses.)*

Jesus knew the joy of giving to others and taught those who wanted to be his followers to learn that joy. He said, *“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”* (Luke 6:38 NIV)

—J. David Waugh (a pastor in the Hell’s Kitchen neighborhood of New York City). Published in *Developing a Heart for the Hungry*, published by **Seeds of Hope Publishers**. www.seedspublishers.org Used by permission.