

# Children's Sermon

This is based on the story of Esmerelda, found on Page 18 in this guide.

## Theme

One Great Hour of Sharing reminds us that it “is time to share” by giving to others in small ways which make a big difference—even one we cannot see ourselves. There are many ways for us to know God’s generosity in our lives and to share that with others. Sometimes, we just need to think about them in new ways.

## Materials Needed

- An affirming listening ear, eager to engage children’s ideas!
- Pictures of Esmerelda and her farm (<https://cwsglobal.org/stories/esmerelda/>)
- Banks or Coin Boxes if you want them to take up an offering.

## Game

During this children’s moment, you will be asked to play the classic game “Telephone” or “Whisper down the lane”. Here are the simple instructions:

1. **Getting Started.** Players must sit in a circle or stand in a straight line. They need to be close enough that whispering is possible, but not so close that players can hear each other whisper.
2. **Begin the Game.** The first person in the line or circle whispers a word or phrase into the ear of the person sitting or standing to their right.
3. **The Game Continues.** Players whisper the phrase to their neighbors until it reaches the last player in line.
4. **The Conclusion.** The last player says the word or phrase out loud so everyone can hear how much it has changed from the first whisper at the beginning of the circle or line.<sup>1</sup>

If a player doesn’t understand the phrase, he/she/they cannot ask for it to be repeated. That’s a very important part of the game!

## Script Suggestion

I want to ask you a very serious question: Are you good at sharing with others?

*Give time for responses.*

Sometimes when I was your age, I found it hard to share. But as I got older, it seemed to get a little easier.

This morning, we are going to play a game in which you have to share something with another person. Are you ready?

[Set up and explain the game of “Telephone” or “Whisper down the lane” as described above. Suggested phrases for them to whisper include:

- Sharing is caring.
- Do you want to share a pig?
- Share a story with me.
- Or any version that includes the phrase “sharing.”]



*Play the game and then ask the last person to say it out loud for all to hear ... and you, as the leader, can affirm or correct it.*

In one of the books of the Bible, a man by the name of Paul, we sometimes call him "Apostle Paul," wrote some ideas sharing with others.

To the church at Galatia, he reminded them of this: "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people" and "let us not become weary of doing good." Those are big words, aren't they?

What do you think he meant?

*Give time for responses.*

That's right—he meant that we should always be looking for ways to share with others.

Well, let me tell you a story about a lady named Esmerelda. She lives in a country called Honduras. And through some people like members of this church sharing a gift with her, she can pass that on. Want to know how she does it?

You ready to hear? It's really neat!

Through an activity called "pass chain," Esmeralda receives foster animals—maybe a pregnant pig, sheep or cow she feeds and cares for them. When the next piglet, lamb or calf is born, it is passed on to another family, which in turn will do the same. Today, Esmeralda has a pregnant sow, three sheep and 30 chickens.

How cool is that? Remember how you passed along that phrase earlier. Imagine if you were passing along an animal after it was born to another family. That is a really great way to do good and it provides an income for the families that participate. You think your parents would let you do this at your house?

Do you want to see some pictures of Esmeralda?

*Show the picture.*

Did you ever think you could do good by raising an animal and passing it on!

Well, you can and you can help by giving an offering to One Great Hour of Sharing.

*Next, pass out coinboxes to children and families OR arrange for them to be given out at an appropriate time.*

You have a chance to share with another through an offering you can collect through the next week [or two].

Here is a special bank so you can help others by doing good and sharing with them. At home, I'd like you to think about all the times each day someone shares something with you. Maybe it's at school or when you are playing with your siblings. And with your family, maybe each night at dinner, or when you have breakfast, think and pray together about how you want to make a difference. Maybe you want to put in a dollar for every time someone shares something with you, either at home or at school.

Or maybe you want to count all the times you've shared something with another person and add an amount of money for every time. I bet you can think of a lot of creative ways to help. It's a way of being mindful of all that we have, being grateful, and helping others.

*Share any details about when your community will be receiving the offering, and when and how they should return the coinboxes.*

Can we pray a blessing together on these banks and on the offering we'll receive with them? What do we hope God will do?

*Allow for all their prayer requests. All prayers are welcome!*

Very good! Let's pray:

*If you are comfortable doing so, incorporate the specific requests and wording offered by the children in your prayer with them. And/Or you may wish to use this prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for loving us so much and showing us how we can love others. These offerings we will put in these boxes we know will change someone's life. We can love those we will never even meet. Sharing really is caring. With thankful hearts, we pray. Amen.*