

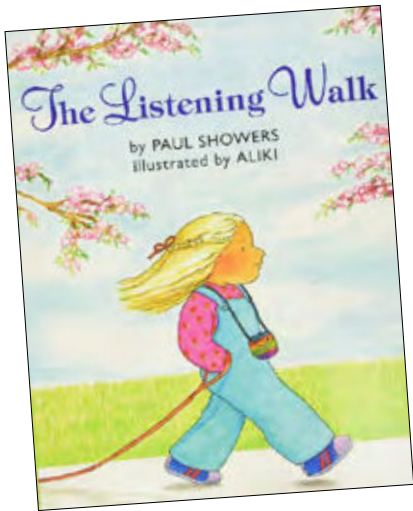
# Intergenerational Activity—Planning to Share

There are two options for intergenerational activities, both designed to help participants think about HOW they would plan to share with others. Both activities are designed to take between 40 minutes and 1 hour.

## Option A—Neighborhood Walk

The children's book *The Listening Walk* is about a young girl who walks around her neighborhood and only uses her intentional listening skills to “see” her neighborhood in a new way.

Programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing and Church World Service help mothers in faraway places feed their families and others through agriculture initiatives like planting new crops and finding ways to save water when it rains.



While we may live worlds apart, there are certainly similarities in our homes, neighborhoods and communities.

This activity is designed to help participants use their five senses to determine what they might be able to share with others in their own settings.

If you are doing this activity at home, children should always be accompanied by adults. Take a walk around your neighborhood.

If you are doing this activity at church, children still must be accompanied but you could do this in smaller groups to make the experience more personal and easier to manage. This lends itself to multiple generations working together.

Adults should ask questions to help guide the experience while walking:

- What do you see? Is there rubbish to pick up? Depending on the season, what do the flowers and trees look like?

- What do you hear? Birds or cars? Kids playing? Airplanes flying overhead? Falling leaves?
- What do you smell? Freshly mown grass? Fireplaces?
- What do you taste? This one is a bit harder, isn't it? Hold your mouth open and see if you notice anything distinctive.
- What do you feel? The wind on your face? Cold or warmth? Think also about what you feel inside!

When you return from the walk, **discuss** some questions about sharing:

- While you were on the walk, did you see, smell, hear, taste or feel anything that upset you? Was new to you? Surprised you?

Read Galatians 6:9a and 10a from the International Children's Bible—“We must not become tired of doing good. We must not give up! When we have the opportunity to help anyone, we should do it.”

- As you were on the walk and using all of your senses, did you think of some good you could do? If so, what was it? What part of the walk made you think of that?

**Create** an action plan.

- What will you do next? How can you do good? What can you share with others?

Now that you have engaged your five senses, engage the 5W's and an H in your planning:

- 1) What will you do?
- 2) When will you do it?
- 3) Who will be involved?
- 4) Where will you do this?
- 5) Why do you want to do this?
- 6) How will you accomplish the good?

Ensure there is a time to follow-up after the action plan is enacted.

## Option B—Paper Bag Skits

This activity is designed to be a fun way to use anything available to create a spur of the moment skit about sharing. However, some preparation is required.

You will need to locate some paper sacks and fill them with random items (“junk”) which could be used in an unscripted skit performed by participants. You will want to make sure you have the exact number of items included in the bags for the number of people in the small groups.

Divide your group into equal numbers and ensure they are multi-generational.

### *Instructions:*

Give each group a paper bag and instruct them to create a skit which involves all participants in the group with each participant using their assigned item in the skit.

The skit should answer this question—“How can we make sure we are sharing our time, treasure and talent with others?” It’s a broad question for a reason. Let their creativity take root and be on display.

Give each group 15 minutes to develop and rehearse the skit, then invite all groups to share their skits with the rest of the participants. (You will need to adjust time according to the size of your group.)

After the skits, read Galatians 6:9a and 10a from the International Children’s Bible—“We must not become tired of doing good. We must not give up! When we have the opportunity to help anyone, we should do it.”

- As you were watching the skits, did you think of some good you could do? If so, what was it?

**Create** an action plan.

- What will you do next? How can you do good? What can you share with others?

Now that you have engaged your five senses, engage the 5W’s and an H in your planning:

- 1) What will you do?
- 2) When will you do it?
- 3) Who will be involved?
- 4) Where will you do this?
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- 6) How will you accomplish the good?

Ensure there is a time to follow-up after the action plan is enacted.

## Intergenerational Activity 2—Community Sharing

Church Community Service in Elkhart, IN is a featured organization in this year’s One Great Hour of Sharing. CCS is a faith-based agency helping people of Elkhart County weather life’s storms and build more secure futures through emergency assistance and intensive job and life-skills training. Three of their programs include:

- Food Pantry,
- Seed to Feed, works alongside the organization’s food pantry to address food insecurity through community gardening and
- Soup for Success, a social enterprise that produces dried food mixes, candles, and mittens while participants gain hands-on job experience and support as they move towards self-sufficiency.

While these three projects may be far away from you, you can explore your own community to see ways that you might share with them.

Here are some ideas:

- Visit a community garden and learn about what they do with the produce. It is donated to others or could it be?
- If your community does not have a garden, consider starting one.
  - If you are considering this, visit a garden in another city or town. Ask questions like:
    - Tell us the story of how you started this garden?
    - What didn’t you know before that you wish you’d known?
    - How many volunteers are needed to be successful?
    - Do you have a board of directors or some other group which is in charge of the garden?
    - How did you acquire the land you are using?
- Visit a food pantry and learn about their services and clientele.
  - Host a food drive. Make it competitive by hosting a contest between various age groups.

After your visits, spend some time in reflection on questions like these:

- 1) Who was being served at these sites (garden or food pantry)?
- 2) Who was serving at these sites? How did you know they were serving? What actions did you witness?
- 3) How did the groups interact with each other?