

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

Theme Story

In West Timor, Indonesia clean water and nutritious meals can be scarce. This was the experience of Yabes Tefa and her young daughter, Sifralili. Yabes struggled to ensure her daughter had healthy food or clean water beyond simply quenching thirst (and at that, the water available would often make her daughter sick and give her skin rashes).

CWS trained the people of Yabes' village to build a secure cover for their spring and a cement tank to collect extra water. On top of this, Yabes and other women in her village created a farmer's group and divided a shared garden into two sections: one for vegetables to be used for family meals and one for vegetables to be sold in the market. And with CROP support, just last April this group expanded to raising chickens to help ensure more diverse diets. The group members learned how to build chicken coops, make chicken feed and hatch chickens in a simple incubator.

"Now I have more than 50 chickens!" says Yabes proudly. "At the moment, I don't have any plans to sell the chickens, only the eggs— and, so far, I have used some of my profit to renovate our latrine so it is sanitary, which I learned how to do with help from the CWS team."

Stories like Yabes' are only possible because of you're walking in the CROP Hunger Walk!



VEGGIES, EGGS AND A SIDE OF HOPE.

**CROP
HUNGER WALK**
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME
BY  **CWS**

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Week One

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 25:31-40: 31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ 37 Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ 40 And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’”

LESSON:

Read Yabes' story after reading the scripture at every lesson (just to refresh the children's minds on the story- you can also give a summary if that's easier and you have the same children week to week). Share a photo of Yabes and her daughter Sifralili (available on the bulletin insert - either print the photo or share on a phone, tablet or computer). Pass the picture around and ask the children to point to Jesus in the picture. There will inevitably be some confusion since the photo is of Yabes and Sifralili. Remind the children of Jesus' words in the scripture lesson, "...just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." So that means that since Yabes and Sifralili were in need, we are to help them just as we would help Jesus or a member of our family! Ask the children what they would do if a member of their family needed help (mom, dad, brother, sister, grandma, grandpa, etc.)? We'd want to help them! Though Yabes and Sifralili live far away, they are members of our human family and that's why we walk in the CROP Hunger Walk- we're walking for family members in need both around the block and around the world!

ACTIVITY:

Supplies: blank paper (can be construction paper or any drawing paper) and crayons/colored pencils/markers/etc.

Have the children (or help them) draw a circle on a sheet of paper. Have them color the circle in greens and blues to look like the earth. Then ask them to draw their family holding hands on one side of the circle and Yabes and Sifralili holding hands on the other side of the world to show that even though we're far away, we're still part of the same family!

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Week Two

SCRIPTURE:

Micah 6:6-8 (NRSV): 6 “With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? 7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” 8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

LESSON:

Read Yabes' story again just to refresh the children (or simply say the highlights in your own words). Ask the children what the most important thing they own is. You can tell them an example of your own (perhaps a family heirloom, photo album, etc.) ... their's will maybe be a cherished stuffed animal, the family pet, baby blanket, etc. Ask them how easy it would be for them to have to give that item up. You can share how difficult it would be for you yourself to do the same. These are the sorts of things the Israelites were asking if they'd have to give up in order to be with God. But Micah states that none of that is necessary- instead one must only “...do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.” One way we can help show kindness and do justice is by helping those in need like Yabes and Sifralili.

ACTIVITY:

Supplies: Plastic eggs.

Ask the children if they know what “justice” means. Most probably won't know, but let them know that the next activity will help show justice! Pass out the eggs to the children. Give some only one egg, some a couple, one or two no eggs and give one child quite a number of eggs. Mention that oftentimes our circumstances means that some of us have more than others. Since we are called to “do justice” as Micah said, those of us with many should give from our abundance to help those in need and make a more equitable and just world. Have the child with many eggs (with the help of her/his friends) pass out the large number of eggs to make sure everyone has some eggs (preferably starting with the child with no eggs... the most vulnerable!). Explain that this is sort of like us walking in the CROP Hunger Walk to help provide chickens for families like Yabes'.

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Week Three

SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 58:6-7 (NRSV): 6 Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? 7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

LESSON:

(Summarize or reread Yabes' story) There can be a lot of tricky words in that passage we just read. BUT- listen again to verse 7 (reread verse 7). We are called here by Isaiah to "share" with those in need. Can you remember some of the things we're told to share? Bread, our home, and clothes. What were some of the items shared with Yabes to help make her life better? Seeds for vegetables and chickens! This not only provides food for Yabes and Sifralili, but she can sell the extra vegetables and eggs at the market!

ACTIVITY:

Supplies: Paper cups, potting soil, grass seed (or other fast sprouting seed), water/watering can.

Guide and help children as needed depending on ages. Pass out one cup to each child and have them write their names on their cups. Have them fill the cup about 2/3 of the way with soil. Then have the children place some of the seeds in the cup and cover with a bit more soil. Following this, have them water the plants. Explain to them that sewing seeds like this may take time to see it grow, it is absolutely worth the wait- just like Yabes now has nutritious meals and an income source for her family!

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Week Four

SCRIPTURE:

2 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NRSV): Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Surely we do not need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you or from you, do we? 2 You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all; 3 and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

LESSON:

Have any of you ever heard the phrase, "Actions speak louder than words?" Can actions really speak? No! What do you think it means when people say that then? What they mean to say is that what you do oftentimes shows who you are more than what you say. For example, have any of you ever gotten into an argument with your brother/sister or a friend, said you were sorry, but then did the same thing again? We've all probably done that, and us doing the unkind thing to them again speaks WAY louder than the fact that we said "sorry" since we didn't really mean it. BUT- the same can ring true for good things as well! What are some nice or good things we can do for others? We are able to help Yabes and Sifralili by walking in the CROP Hunger Walk! Our walking for someone in need speaks volumes to those around us- it's the letter on our hearts like Paul talks about in Corinthians.

ACTIVITY:

Supplies: Red construction paper, scissors, crayons/colored pencils/markers/etc.

Fold the red construction paper in half. Show the children how to draw half a heart on the paper (with the folded edge being the middle of the heart- help the children as needed). Have them cut along the edge of their heart and after that unfold the paper to reveal the whole heart! Have the children write their name (or best attempt) in the middle of the heart. After they've written their name, have them write or draw pictures of ways they can help those in need on the remaining open spaces on the heart (and they can also use the back as needed). You can also punch holes in the hearts and hang them across the classroom using wire or string to be a reminder for us to always think of ways to help those in need to show what we believe!

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