



**Mennonite
Church
Canada**

Resource Centre

Enough for All

Children's Story

Cycle A, Proper 13

Title: Enough for All
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Church: Home Street Mennonite Church, Winnipeg MB
Theme: There's enough for all, if we learn to share and offer what we have to Jesus.
Text: Matthew 14: 13 - 21

Wondering Questions:

- I wonder what Alex's puppets looked like.
- I wonder if it was hard for Alex to give her puppets to her counselor for a day.
- I wonder how Alex's puppets were like the lunch that Jesus shared with a crowd of people.
- I wonder what I could share so Jesus could do more than I can imagine with it.

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Gathering activity:

Invite and welcome the children to this special time of the worship service where we try to apply the worship theme to their lives. Encourage them to settle their bodies and their hearts so that they notice and are thankful for the nearness of God. Open your Bible to Matthew 14 and show it to the children. Say, "Today's scripture reading is about one of Jesus' miracles. Do any of you know the story of Jesus feeding five thousand people with two loaves and five fishes? What do you remember of the story?"

Important points to get are:

- *the disciples offer the food they have (2 loaves and 5 fish)*
- *Jesus blesses the food*
- *the people share it*
- *there are lots of leftovers.*

"If this story were to happen here, it would be like feeding everyone in church with just this bag lunch. *Bring out a small bag lunch.* Does this look like enough to feed everybody? *Pause for response.* You're right, it's not enough, but Jesus can take any little thing we offer and turn it into something that is enough. Let me tell you a modern story where that happened.

Story:

Alex owned two beautiful stuffed bear puppets. She loved these bears very much and took them along everywhere she went. Whenever her friends saw her bears, they wanted to play with them, too, because they looked so cuddly. Alex enjoyed sharing her puppets. When there was just one other friend, they would play with the bears together.

One day, Alex went away to a camp where she stayed in a cabin with seven other girls and a counselor. All of her cabin mates wanted to play with her puppets. Alex did not know what to do because she did not have enough puppets to share with everyone, and her new friends were starting to fight about who could play with the bear puppets next.

Alex told her counselor about the problem with not having enough to share. The counselor, who was a follower of Jesus, listened carefully and thought. Then she asked, "May I borrow your two puppets until tonight?" "I guess so, if they are not here, then at least the others won't fight about them anymore," Alex answered. She was a little sad not to have her puppets with her.

That evening, during supper, Alex noticed that a blanket had been draped over some chairs. It gave her a funny, but happy feeling in her tummy. After everyone was seated at supper, Alex's counselor got up and told the whole camp about Alex's dilemma. "So we counselors decided to put on a puppet show for everyone. After supper, we will all enjoy the puppets together." The funny, happy feeling in Alex's tummy grew.

It was a very good puppet show. Everyone laughed and had fun watching it. It became one of the campers' favourite memories of camp to tell others about when they got home.

The counselors used the puppets to give all the campers more fun with her puppets than Alex had ever had before.

Prayer:

Thank you, Jesus, for people who are willing to share what they have. Thank you that you can still use anything we offer, and can do more than we can imagine with it. Please help us grow in the joy of sharing. Amen.