

Serving Together

Feeding the Needing

Use the following skit and the puppet pictures on Poster K (from Coordinator) to involve the children in this story of K.I.D.S. who care and share. (Cut out the puppets and attach craft sticks to the back so students can raise or move their puppets forward as each one speaks. If you intend to present the puppet skit yourself, you may want to affix small magnets to the back of each and use a magnetic whiteboard or large cookie sheet as a backdrop.)

Scene 1

Say: **Millicent is helping Mom unload groceries from the car. Mom is bringing them in, and Millicent is filling the cupboards. But there's a problem. Listen to find out what it is.**

Millicent: Mom, I don't know where to put these cans. They won't all fit!

Billy: *(Coming in the back door)* Your mom is out in the garage, bringing in more bags. She sent me in to help. *(Pause)* Like, wow! You're right. *(Nervous laughter)* They won't all go in here.

Bucky: Ruh-roh! *(Uh-oh!)*

Millicent: What can we do?

Billy: Like, I bet Bucky will eat your extra Bucky Snacks!

Millicent: I'll share the Bucky Snacks, but . . . maybe we can share even more.

Billy: Like, what do you mean?

Millicent: Penny told me that her parents sometimes take food to the food pantry, and last week the shelves were almost empty! Our shelves are so full. Maybe Mom will let us take these extra cans over there. Let's get Richie, Goldie, and Penny to help!

Billy: Zoinks! I don't know. This sounds like a lot of work. And how will we get all the stuff to the food pantry? It's clear across town!

Millicent: Don't you have a wagon? Let's go get it. Then we can all ask our moms if they'll let us take some of their extra cans. Maybe my mom will take us to the food pantry after we collect everything!

Billy: Like, okay, let's go get my wagon. Maybe Bucky can pull it.

Bucky: Relp! *(Help!)*

Millicent: Would you do it for a Bucky Snack? Come, on! Let's make this count!

(Before moving to Scene 2, ask the children what a food pantry is. Why do we need food pantries? How does the food for hungry people get to the food pantry? Then continue with Scene 2.)

Scene 2

Say: **Millicent and Billy, on their way to get Billy's wagon, meet Goldie, Richie, and Penny on the corner near Billy's house.**

Millicent: Hi, guys! We were just on our way to find you! Penny, didn't your mom tell you about the food pantry last week?

Penny: Jinkies, you're right. It was so sad. All those hungry people and hardly any food on the shelves to give them! My mom almost cried when she told me.

Billy: Zoinks! That's too bad. But there's nothing kids can do about it.

Bucky: Ruh-roh! *(Uh-oh!)*

Millicent: Of course, there's something we can do! Let's put our heads together.

Penny: Instead of putting our heads together, let's put some groceries together!

Bucky: Rut? (*What?*)

Millicent: Billy and I were talking at my house. We have more cans than will fit in our cupboards. Billy was going to get his wagon, and we were coming to your houses to see if you had extra cans too.

Goldie: Groovy!

Richie: Let's split up and go ask our moms.

Billy: (*Reluctant*) Well, I'm not sure.

Goldie: Well, would you do it for Jesus?

Billy: (*Startled*) Like, what do you mean, Goldie? Jesus isn't hungry!

Millicent: Of course not, but He told us to show His love to others.

Penny: Right, Millicent. According to my calculations, Matthew 25:40 says, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me" (*NIV*).

Millicent: What we do really counts!

Richie: Hey, gang! We've got a project on our hands!

Goldie: Groovy! But how will the people who get the food know Jesus loves them? How will they know that we gave them the food because He told us to show them He cares?

Penny: Jinkies! Good point, Goldie. Here's an idea! Let's use markers to draw a cross on all the cans. That will be a clue they can use to tell why we're doing it!

Billy: Like, can we grab a snack first? All this talk about food is making me hungry.

Penny: Oh, Billy! According to my calculations, this should take only 32 minutes and 20 seconds. We'll be done before you know it, and then we can eat.

Goldie: My mom will make some lemonade.

Millicent: Let's make this count! We're together in Christ . . . building for eternity.

(*The children scatter to put their plan into action.*)

Explain/Discuss

What do you think happened next? (Let the children speculate.)

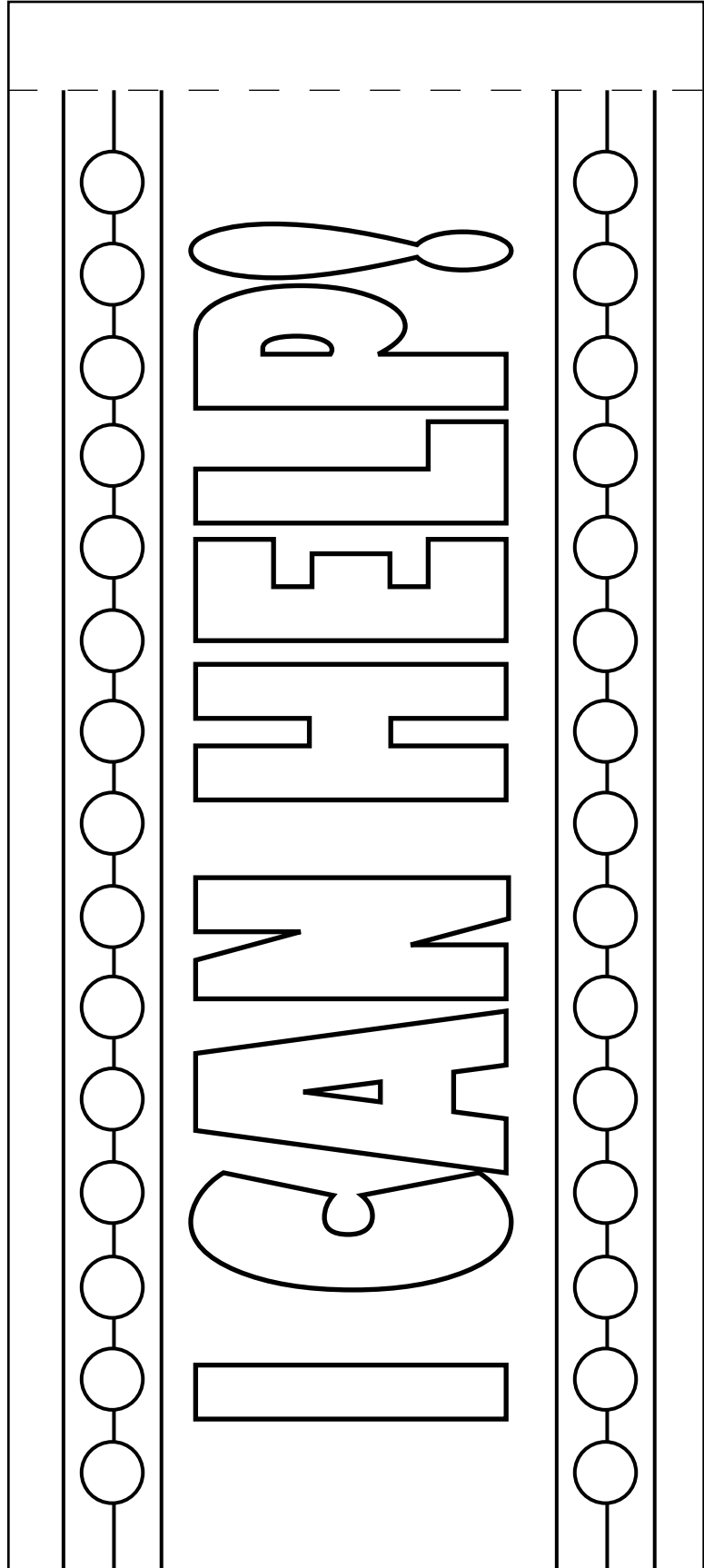
Do we have a food pantry in our town?

Why do people donate food to the food pantry? (Sometimes they have been hungry themselves and want to help others who are hungry. Sometimes they remember what Jesus told us about showing His love to others. When we think about *Jesus'* great love for us and that He died on the cross to take away our sins, we want to love everyone around us!)



Tin Can Bank

Directions: Color, decorate, and cut out the can wrapper on this page. Have a grown-up help you find an empty can to use as a bank. Have an adult wash the can and wrap any sharp edges with duct tape. Then tape the wrapper you have made around the can. Use it as a coin bank. It will help you remember to pray for people who don't have enough to eat. Put coins in your bank throughout the month. Use them to buy a can of food for a hungry family and take the can to school for the food drive. Use any extra coins to buy stamps for your K.I.D.S. stamp book.



Count on Jesus

Taking It Home

Dear Parents,

This week our class learned about the first place of worship God's people built—the “movable church” they used in their desert wanderings. God gave His people everything they needed for this project: silver, gold, precious stones, wood, the necessary skills, and able hands. And above all, God gave them willing hearts. Touched by God's love for them, the people built the tabernacle to show their love for God. They were even moved to bring more offerings than were needed!

As you help your child cut out the can wrapper and make a bank to collect money during the weeks ahead, talk about food pantries and why God's people collect food for the hungry. Stress Jesus' love for us; in return, we show our love for Jesus by caring for those around us. God doesn't need a can of peas or corn, but the hungry people around us do. We give to Jesus when we give to His people!

As your child deposits coins in the homemade bank, remind your child to pray for hungry people. Shop together to choose the cans of food your child can take to a school or church for the school food drive. Or plan to deliver the food and coins to a food pantry yourself.

As you continue to teach your child the joy of giving, may Jesus fill your hearts with wonder at His generosity for you—love that went all the way to Calvary's cross to win forgiveness and eternal life for you! Because Jesus generously gave us what we needed, forgiveness of our sins, we are moved to love others by giving. The Holy Spirit even helps us to love and gives us willing hearts. Consider working together on one of the suggested projects. As the children use their gifts and abilities with which God has blessed them, they are really doing it for Jesus. May God grant your child joy in giving!



Count on Jesus

Family Talk

Here are some projects you and your child can do together to make a difference!

- * Throughout the month ahead, look for chores your child can do around the house. Suggest each chore with words like, “I wish I had someone to help . . . dry the dishes.” If your child responds “I can help,” drop a nickel, dime, or quarter into his or her homemade can bank.
- * Visit a local food pantry. Talk to the workers there. Ask questions about the kinds of people who come to get food and about what other kinds of help they need. Ask how you and your family can help. For example, you might help staff the food pantry one evening a week. You might be a liaison between the food pantry and your church, collecting food at the church and delivering it to the food pantry once a week or once a month.
- * Have your child help you make sandwiches and take them to a soup kitchen (call ahead to make arrangements). As you drop them off, offer to stay to help serve the meal. Afterward, talk with your child about what you saw and about the compassion Jesus feels toward the needy. But don’t focus on just the need—focus also on the joy God gives His people when we help others.
- * Pray together each evening at bedtime for everyone who will go to bed hungry that night and for those who don’t have enough warm clothes to wear. Ask Jesus to show you how you can be part of the answer to your own prayer.
- * Encourage your child to invest regularly in the Lutheran Church Extension Fund Stamp Program. Stamps are available for sale at your church or school. Your child’s money makes a difference, because it helps LCEF to support churches, schools, and other ministries. Ask your child’s teacher for more information and/or visit www.lcef.org.

Devotion Idea

Read Matthew 25:31–40. Just think of it! Jesus says that whatever kind things we do to help others, we are really doing for Him! Wow! What have you done for others this week? (Let your child answer.) Just think! Jesus says you did all these things for Him!

But sometimes we are selfish, aren’t we? Sometimes we would rather play than help. Sometimes we forget. Sometimes we even hurt others by what we say and do. Even then, Jesus loves us. When we say, “Jesus, forgive me,” He does! He generously gave His life so we can be forgiven. Then He gives us the Holy Spirit to help us love others and give our lives to God. What can He help us do for Jesus today/tomorrow/this week? Thank God for able hands, and pray for a willing heart.