



## THEME: **Sharing**

**ABOUT THIS CLASS:** The theme for this Frolic Family Faith Class is **Sharing**. You will read the Frolic storybook titled *Ava and the Skimpy Picnic*.

# Prep Time

### Sharing in the Bible

Scripture offers abundant examples of sharing. In the beginning, we see God sharing creation with humans and asking us to care for it. Joseph shared food with his brothers as part of their reconciliation. An innkeeper in Bethlehem offered a stable as lodging for Mary and Joseph. A little boy shared five loaves of bread and two fish with Jesus. The book of Acts describes how the early Christian community shared all their possessions as they lived together with the common goal of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ.

### A Parent's View of the Theme

The act of sharing is a key part of the daily work of parenting. Parents are sharing a part of themselves all the time. Pregnant and nursing mothers are sharing their bodies. Adoptive parents are sharing their time, resources, and love in order to form their families. Families find they are sharing their space as the home fills up with new baby supplies. Couple time and alone time must be spared so that time is shared with the new baby. Throughout all of these demands, parents are expected to set good examples of how to share so that their children will grow up to be generous and hospitable. With all of these demands, sharing can seem like a burden, and the gifts of faithful sharing can be lost.

### A Child's View of the Theme

A young child is regularly being coached by adults to share with others. The challenge with this request? Because of the emotional, cognitive, and social skills required to share, young children are not equipped to willingly share with others until well into their preschool years. This means that sharing is very difficult for young children! As toddlers learn about themselves as unique, separate individuals, part of that individualization is owning things. Giving something away that they feel ownership over may feel like giving away part of themselves. Pairing an awareness of this developmental truth with good models for sharing possessions and sharing love is key to teaching about sharing during this tender time of life.



### Bible Verse

**"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."**

—Hebrews 13:16



### Today's Ritual

Place a collection of stuffed animals in a basket and ask each family to pick one animal to use during this ritual. When every family has a stuffed animal, invite the child to hold it while you recite the following rhyme.

**You share with me.** (*Have the child pass the toy to the adult.*)

**I'll share with you.** (*Pass the toy back to the child.*)

**We'll share God's love with others too!** (*Give each other a hug.*)



Dear God,  
Sometimes I want to keep everything to myself.  
Next time I have a chance, help me share with my friends.  
Amen.



## Let's Color Together

### Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Encourage your child to color the images from the book. Delight in their colorful creations!

### Your child is learning this!

- When I color, I develop my fine motor skills.
- Using crayons helps me learn the names of colors.
- **When I color pictures from this story, I remember that God can help me share what I have with others.**



## Turn-Taking Roll-Around

### Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Roll the ball with your child while saying "My turn" and "Your turn."

### Your child is learning this!

- When I practice taking turns, I am learning an important step in the development of sharing.
- When you talk about what you are doing, I learn new words.
- **Your sharing with me helps me understand how God wants me to share with others.**



## Sharing a Story

### Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Point out that everyone can fit on the blanket if we share the space together. Snuggle up while you listen to the story with your child.

### Your child is learning this!

- When I hear someone read a story to me, I develop early literacy skills.
- Stories about sharing help me learn different ways that people can share.
- Hearing about sharing while you hold me helps me associate sharing with good feelings.
- **Stories about sharing help me grow in faith.**



## Sharing a Picnic

### Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Remind your child of the picnic in the book you read today. Share a snack with your child. Ask them to share the food in the cup between you. Give them time and space to figure out how they want to share the snack, and assist as needed. Help them to say a prayer to ask God to help them to be good at sharing.

### Your child is learning this!

- When I plan how to share snacks with others, I am learning early math skills and using my fine motor skills.
- **When I have a "picnic" like the one in the book, I can remember the prayer the animals said to help them share.**

