

We Share in Church

Lesson Plan Overview

Opening: Paschal Troparion and/or Complete Beginning Prayers

Introduction: Experience of sharing
Need: Cookies, candy and stickers, enough for everyone

Read Text Aloud: Ask questions noted on following pages as text is being read

Activity Tracks:

Choose a basic, group, or craft activity to reinforce the lesson (detailed on the pages that follow).

- Basic 1:* Sharing in Church
- Basic 2:* “Sharing” Maze
- Group:* “Sharing in Church” Game
- Craft:* “Sharing” Card

Closing: Paschal Troparion and/or Complete Beginning Prayers

Come Bless the Lord Icon:

Packet I: The Mystical Supper
 Packet II:

Teaching Pics

Objective: The students will reflect on how they are participants in church and state one way they share in church.

For the Catechist

From St. John's First Epistle we read, "We, for our part, love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). God initiates a relationship of love with us, a relationship of sharing. We respond by sharing with one another. The students have learned in the previous lesson about God's sharing His most special gift, Holy Communion, with us. In this lesson they are asked to consider their response to all God's gifts to us. The response is to share with one another. The children eagerly await the collection during the Divine Liturgy, so it is being used as the example of sharing and the touchstone for a consideration of other ways to share.

Sharing is an aspect of worship. Consider the words of the definition offered in a previous lesson: "worship is a bowing down or an act of service, but in this very act of emptying ourselves before God, we are filled with His Spirit and made God-like." When we worship we empty ourselves. An example of this is in our Divine Liturgy whenever we say, "To You, O Lord." We are willing to give our entire selves to God in response for all God has given us.

This lesson develops the concept of sharing—of money, our voices, food, and time—as the response to God's sharing of many good gifts with us, in particular Holy Communion. Sharing is the way we participate in the Divine Liturgy. The students should be encouraged to tell how they share. Listen carefully to what they are saying and commend their efforts. They need to see their actions as worthwhile and very pleasing to God.

Keeping the lesson in mind throughout the year, you may want to choose one or more Sundays where your class goes into the church and shares their time by cleaning—straightening pew books, picking up, and helping with whatever else needs to be done.

Background Reading

(Direct quotations from the sources noted.)

Christian Hospitality

The traditional way sharing is exercised in the domestic church is in **hospitality**, the willingness to share all we are and all we have with others. Hospitality is a principal exercise of the priesthood of the domestic church. By taking the small section of the world under their control and sharing it with others, the Christian family sanctifies it and makes of it an offering to God.

Christians exercise their domestic priesthood to the fullest when their home is open to others in the spirit of Christ. The Christian community should be especially welcome as was the case in the early Church, where people put what they had '*at the service of the saints*' (1 Cor 16:15). The domestic church, then, should be a place where guests are the rule rather than the exception.

We should not confuse hospitality with entertaining: inviting those who will invite us in turn. Everyone does that! Christ says that we best imitate God when we show concern for those from whom we can expect no repayment (cf Mt 5:43-48). And so hospitality is most Christian when it is extended to those from whom we do not expect any return" (DC 36).

Almsgiving

"Almsgiving should also be intensified in a way the family decides together. Children should be expected to give of their own resources, not simply to contribute their parents' money while leaving their own allowances intact" (DC 65).

The Lesson Plan

Opening

[As the children enter the room, greet them with "Christ is risen!" Help them to respond, "Indeed He is risen!"] *Our prayer for this unit is the Paschal hymn, "Christ is risen." Let's go to the icon corner and get ready to pray.* [Sing or say the version of the Paschal troparion used in your parish.]

We have been saying the first part of the Beginning or Trisagion Prayers for this unit. After "All Holy Trinity," we'll say "Lord, have mercy" three times and then the Doxology. After the Doxology, we'll say the Lord's Prayer. Let's come to the icon corner and begin with the sign of the cross. [Say complete Beginning Prayers. Use the translation for your jurisdiction.]

Introduction

Last week we had a very important lesson. We learned that Jesus Christ shares a most important gift with us, Holy Communion. God has shared so many things with us—all of creation, our homes and families, our church, His Son Jesus. God is love, and love wants to share and to give of ourselves.

I brought something to help me teach the lesson. [Give all the items to one student who is more naturally inclined to share.] *What do you think you'd like to do with all these? (Share) Go ahead and share them. How does it feel to share?* [Allow response.] *Here's something else.* [Give the second item, all to one student.] *What will you do with these? (Share) Go ahead and share. Sharing is good. God wants us to share and to give to others.*

Have you ever had a job to do and someone came along to help? How did that work out? [Allow sharing.] *God wants us to share our time with one another, too. Church is a good place to share. Can you think of ways we share or give at church?*

We Share in Church



Our Church family worships God together.
We share in many ways in church.

What are some ways we share?
We share our **prayers** with God and one another.
It is good to sing together "Lord, have mercy."

Reading of Text

As the children read aloud, help them interact with the text using the comments or questions below which are keyed to the text phrases (in bold type). See "Reading of Text" in Lesson 1 for use of the Vocabulary Visual Aid.

What are some ways we share?

[Allow responses. Compliment the student by saying "I'm happy that you've learned to share in church" after he or she says, "I share..."] *Let's see if any of these are mentioned now in the lesson.*

We share our **praise** of God.
It is good to sing together, "We praise You. We bless You."
We praise God because He is our Creator.



We praise God because He has been good to us.
God gives us our food and our family.
God gives us our friends and our Church.

God shares creation with us.
God shares His Son, Jesus Christ, with us.
Jesus gave His life for us.

In church we share the special food that makes us God's family—**Holy Communion.**

We praise God because He is our Creator.

What song do we sing together that has "praise" in it? ("We praise You, we bless You.")

God gives us our friends and our Church.

What are reasons why we praise God? (He gives us our family, food, friends, and church.)

In church we share the special food that makes us God's family—Holy Communion.

What is the special food that Jesus Christ gives us? (Holy Communion)

The Holy Spirit helps us to give back to God.

Is it not easy to share sometimes? Why? [Allow responses.] Who helps us share? (The Holy Spirit) The Holy Spirit helps us do anything that is good but difficult. You can always pray, "Holy Spirit, help me to ... be a good friend or share or not argue."

Let's review: *Today we learned that God loves us and shares with us. What is the special food Jesus Christ shares with us? What are some ways we share in church?*

God shared His Holy Spirit with us. Sometimes it is not easy to share. The Holy Spirit helps us share.

The Holy Spirit reminds us of all God has given us.

The Holy Spirit helps us to give back to God.



Sometimes we share **food** with those who are hungry. We share our **time** when we need to help out. We share a **donation** of money.

Sharing is a way of showing love.

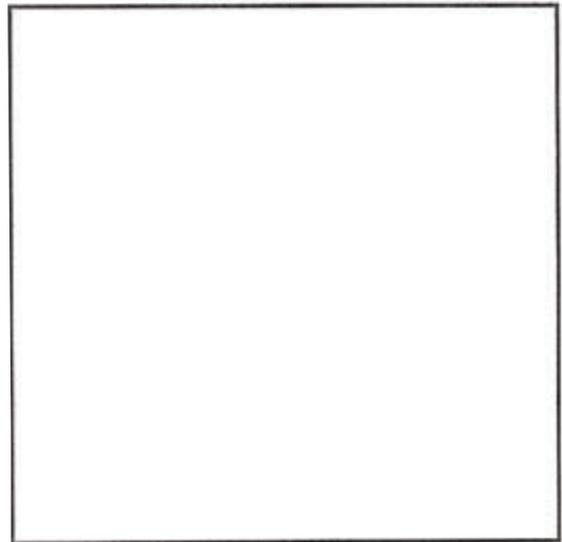
Activity Tracks

Basic 1: Sharing in Church

[This worksheet is in the student text.]

I know all of you like to help and to share. What is one way you share in church? [Call on a few students.] Let's see if you can show me in a picture.

Sharing in Church



God loves us and shares with us. God wants us to love and share in church. Here is one way I share.

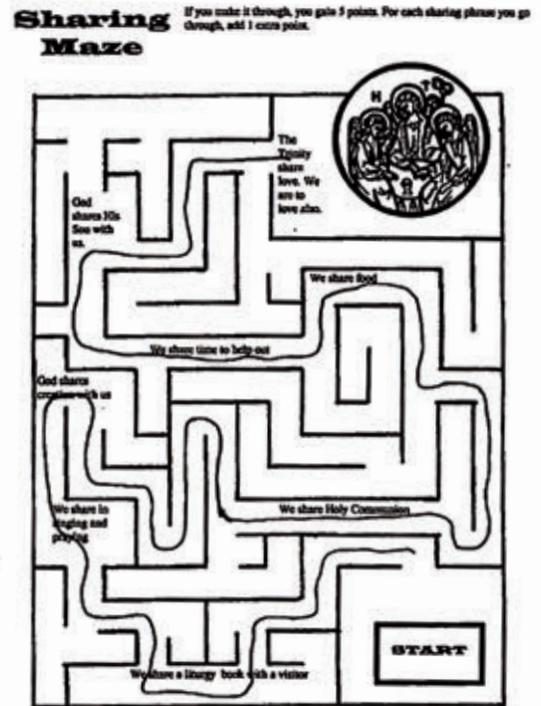
Basic 2: "Sharing" Maze

Today we learned that God shares with us in church and wants us to share. Here is a maze to help us remember that. Let's read the directions. [Read the sharing phrases aloud. If you feel the maze is too difficult, have students work in groups of 2.]

Group: "Sharing in Church" Game

Materials: "Sharing in Church" board game worksheet (one for every four players, enlarged to 11" x 17" paper if possible), pennies or some kind of game markers, a dice or spinner (one per game), 1 parent for each group

Today we learned that God shares with us in church and wants us to share. Here is a game to help us remember that. Four people share one game. You roll the dice and move your marker. If your square has the word share on it, you must tell one way you share in church. If your square has the word receive, you must tell one way you received something that was shared with you in church. Other squares have other messages. [Give a few examples.]

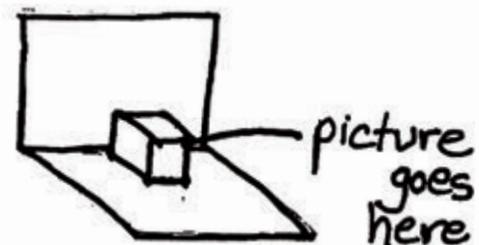


Craft: "Sharing" Card

Materials: "Jesus and Children" worksheet copied onto heavier paper, markers, scissors, parent to help, list of preschoolers

[Ahead of time, do the cutting and creasing so the children will need only to color and assemble. See the diagram alongside to assist you. Directions are on the worksheet.]

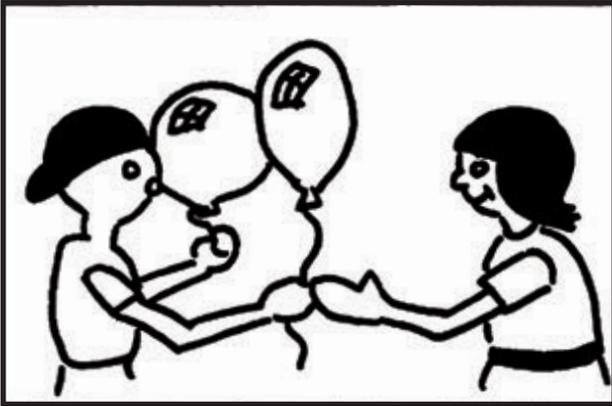
Today we learned that God wants us to share in church. One thing we can share is our time by doing something good for someone else. I'd like us to do something for the preschool class—to make something to share with them. Here is a card. On the front it says a child's name. On the inside it pops up and says "God loves you!" Do you think we can do a card for every preschooler? Do any of you know any of them? After we make the cards, we'll deliver them together. [Help them write a child's name on the front.]



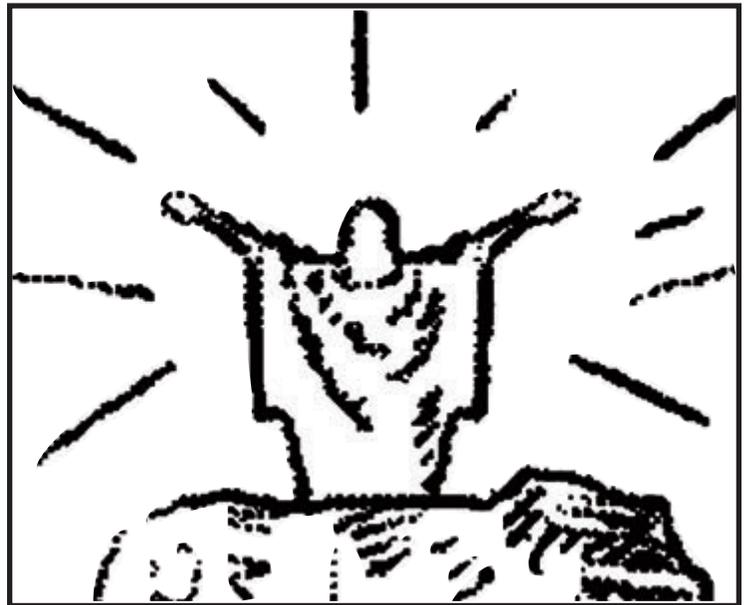
Closing

Let us pray now. [Complete Beginning Prayers and/or Paschal troparion used in your parish.]

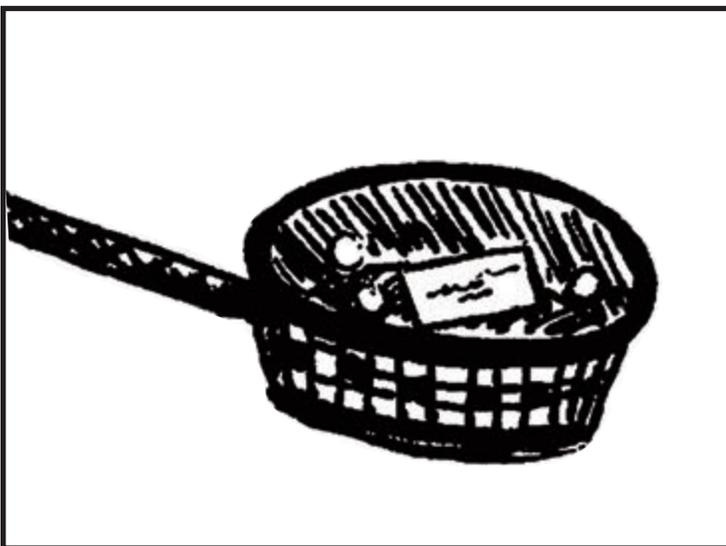
God bless you. Have a good week!



share



praise



donation

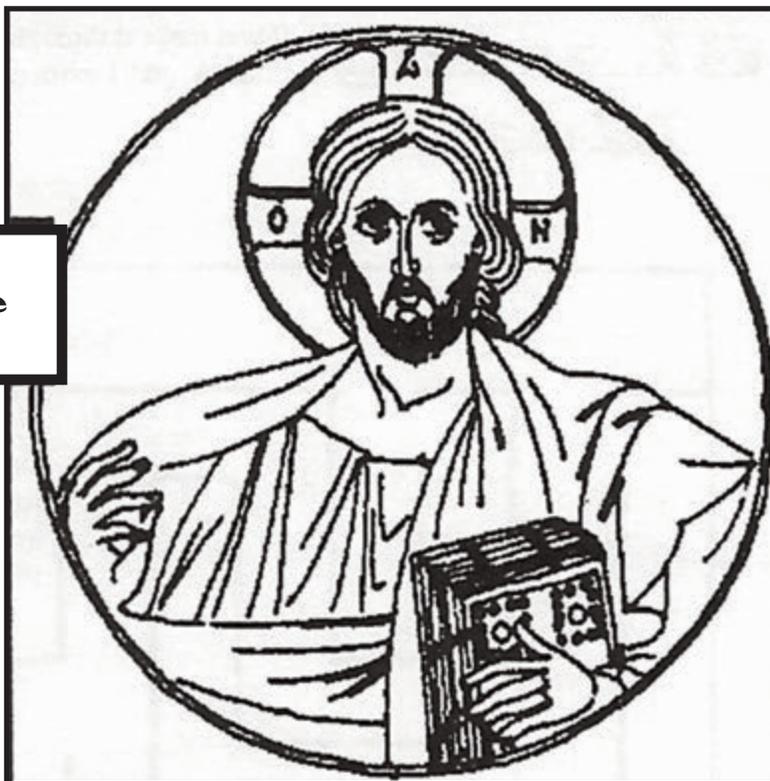
Sharing Maze

If you make it through, you gain 5 points. For each sharing phrase you go through, add 1 extra point.

The maze is a complex network of black lines forming a path. The path starts at a box labeled "START" in the bottom right corner. As the path winds through the maze, it passes through several rectangular boxes containing sharing phrases. At the top right of the maze, there is a circular illustration of the Holy Trinity, showing three figures (God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit) with the letters "H" and "T" above them. The phrases within the maze are:

- God shares His Son with us.
- The Trinity share love. We are to love also
- We share food
- We share time to help out
- God shares creation with us
- We share in singing and praying
- We share Holy Communion
- We share a liturgy book with a visitor

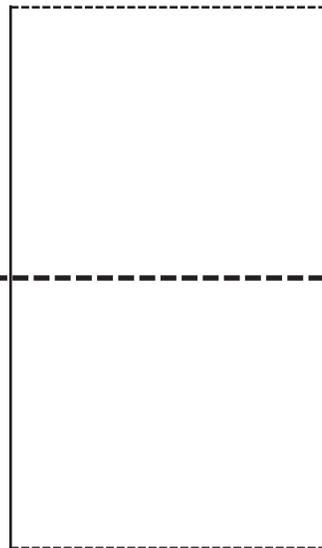
Sharing At Church Game



	share		
You sang "Lord Have Mercy," move up 1			
receive			
You shared your blessed bread move up 3	You shared a liturgy book, move up 2	share	You didn't share, move back 5
			You helped clean up, move up 4 spaces
			You didn't clean up, move back 1 space
	START		



God Loves You



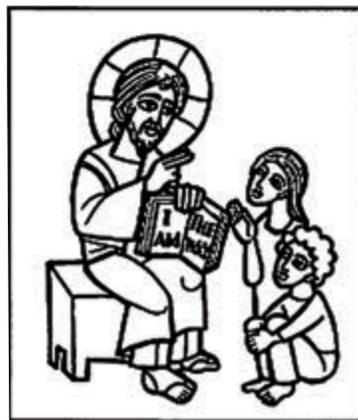
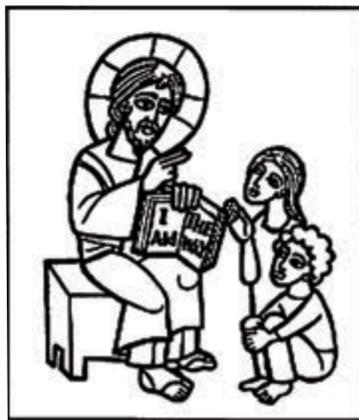
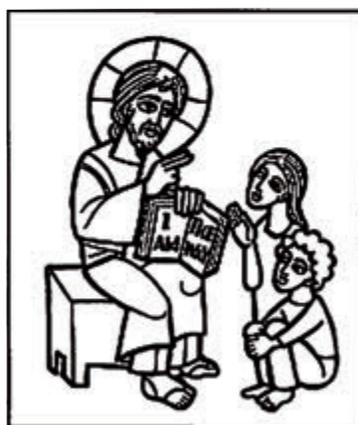
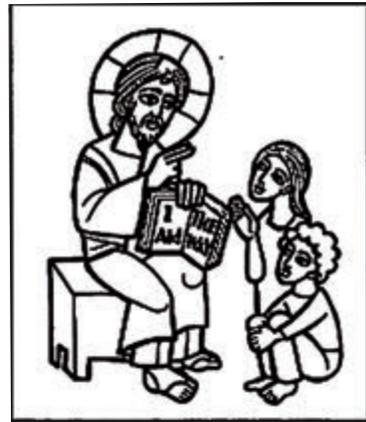
Cut out card along outside edges.

Cut along the small parallel lines inside the card.

With a pointed tool, score (crease) dotted lines.

Close and open the card, making the center strip fold inward.

Paste Trinity icon to lower half of the center strip.



Unit 5 Review

We Worship God

1. Why do we come to church?

(Lesson 1: We come to church to worship God.)

2. What do we call our priest?

(Lesson 18: We call our priest "Father.")

3. What do we call Jesus?

(Lesson 19: We call Jesus "Lord.")

4. Who made you and loves you?

(Lesson 5: God made me and loves me.)

5. Who is the Trinity?

(Lesson 3: God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.)

6. Who created the world?

(Lesson 4: God created the world.)