

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Gracie, the One Great Hour of Sharing Fish

Materials:

Gracie Story (presbyterianmission.org/gracie2016)

Gracie Fish Bank

1 Peter 4:10

"Serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."

Every year as we start the One Great Hour of Sharing campaign, churches all across the country hand out Gracie fish banks to children. New stories about Gracie the fish and her adventures are introduced.

In this year's story, Gracie meets a sea slug named Saul.

Gracie and some friends are racing, and other friends aren't racing and are helping in other ways. They meet someone new, Saul, and discover that he has gifts that they don't have. Their new friend Saul isn't convinced that his gift of hiding is very important, but he saves everyone from a lionfish because he can camouflage himself and tell the others when the danger has passed.

This year's One Great Hour of Sharing verse comes from 1 Peter 4:10: "Serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." Each of the fish in the story has a different gift and their new friend Saul has one, too—just like each one of us. Some people are good at singing or playing an instrument, some are good at speaking, and others are good at welcoming people and making friends. No matter what our gifts are, we are called to use them to serve God.

In this season of Lent, try to find ways to serve one another. Repeat the verse after me:

Serve one another (Serve one another) with whatever gift (with whatever gift) each of you has received (each of you has received)

Repeat the verse 2 or 3 times to help the children learn it.

Let us pray:

Loving God, we have gifts that you call us to share with others. Give us courage to try new things so that we may discover all the gifts you have given to us. In Jesus' name. **Amen**.

Written by the Rev. Karen Wagner, Southminster Presbyterian, Prairie Village, Kansas

