

## Pentecost Offering

### 1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NRSV)

<sup>8</sup>So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

### Luke 18:15–17 (also see Matthew 19:13 and Mark 10:13)

<sup>15</sup>People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. <sup>16</sup>But Jesus called for them and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. <sup>17</sup>Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.”

### Resources and Equipment—

- Computer/video projection capability
- Web access  
[presbyterianmission.org/ministries/yav/](http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/yav/)  
Change the world in 5 minutes a day—Every Day at School—  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=oROsbaxWHoM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oROsbaxWHoM)  
Kids can make a difference—[www.youtube.com/watch?v=z95QYwry2k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z95QYwry2k)
- Fleece 40”x 60” (if working on the Linus project blankets) —  
[www.projectlinus.org/patterns/pdf/NoSewFB.pdf](http://www.projectlinus.org/patterns/pdf/NoSewFB.pdf)
- About Linus Project—[www.projectlinus.org/](http://www.projectlinus.org/)
- Paper and pencil or crayons or colored markers
- Coloring sheet—[www.sermons4kids.com/jesus-and-children-colorpg.htm](http://www.sermons4kids.com/jesus-and-children-colorpg.htm)

### Opening Activity—

**Have the video *Kids can make a difference* playing as students arrive.**

**Children can also be coloring a Jesus and the Children coloring sheet (see above).**

### Opening Prayer—***Open with this prayer or one of your own.***

Loving God, Jesus brought the children to him and blessed them. Help us to be a blessing to others and to share the love of Jesus with the world. **Amen.**

## Pentecost Offering *(continued)*

### Bible Lesson—

This follows the pattern for Lectio Divina or “divine reading.” It is a way of reading Scripture.

**First, ask the children to listen for a word that sticks out to them from the passage you are going to read.**

**Then read aloud Luke 18:15–17 (also see Matthew 19:13 and Mark 10:13)**

### Luke 18:15–17

<sup>15</sup>People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. <sup>16</sup>But Jesus called for them and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. <sup>17</sup>Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.”

What word or phrase stuck out to you?

**Read the passage again (or have a child or another adult read the passage), and ask the children to focus on the word that they noticed stuck out to them.**

What do you think that word or phrase means?

**Read the passage a third time and have the children dramatize, draw, or discuss the following:**

Why do you think it is important that Jesus welcomes the children, even though the disciples are trying to keep the children away?

Do you think children are important in the kingdom of God? Why or why not?

What do you think it means when Jesus says that “if someone does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, [they] will never enter it?”

Jesus has welcomed the children to him. Children are part of God’s kingdom and are part of sharing the Good News with the world. The video we watched at the beginning of class shows kids making a difference. Here are some examples of other children making a difference:

**Show the class the *Change the world in 5 minutes a day—Every Day at School* video** ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=oROsbaxWHoM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oROsbaxWHoM)).

## Pentecost Offering *(continued)*

In the PC(USA), there are people known as Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs) who make a difference in the world. These are people between 19 and 30 years old who live in another city or country around the world and work to share God's love and make a difference.

There are stories and videos on [www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/yav/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/yav/) that can provide information for further explanation.

### Activities—

**Pick and choose from the activities listed as time allows and as they fit your situation.**

#### Linus Project Blankets

Use a 40" x 60" piece of fleece (prewashed) to create a no-sew blanket. The directions are listed in materials above. This is a great activity for the fourth to sixth grade, as cutting strips around the outside edge of the fleece and tying knots require some fine-motor skills. You can look online to find the local Linus Project group in your area and where to donate the blankets when completed. I have found it helpful to precut the corners of the fleece and run masking tape between the corners as a guide for cutting the fringe.

#### Write letters to the YAVs

Pick a country or area of the United States and write to the YAVs serving in that location. Ask them questions about the work they do and what their experience has been like. Pray for them and give thanks for their service to God.

YAV letters can be sent to the Louisville office for Young Adult Volunteers and they will be forwarded to the separate sites—

Young Adult Volunteers  
*(add the site name for the YAVs you are writing)*  
100 Witherspoon Street  
Louisville, KY 40202

#### Brainstorm ways to raise money to support YAVs

What can your class do to support a YAV? Take out a copy of the Presbyterian Giving Catalog to show your class examples of items a YAV might need in order to help others.

\$25	Spanish lesson for a YAV
\$25	Weekly bus pass
\$50	Day of tutoring/snacks for 20 children
\$100	YAV groceries
\$250	YAV lodging



## Pentecost Offering *(continued)*

### **Watch the video *Changing the World in 5 Minutes a day*—**

Brainstorm ways that your Sunday school class can challenge yourselves to change the world in five minutes a day. Can you come up with a challenge for your congregation? What could the entire church do to change the world? Maybe organize a food drive, collect mobile phones to recycle, make hygiene kits? What other ideas can you generate?

### **Closing—**

Jesus blesses the children, because everyone is important in the kingdom of God and everyone is capable of spreading the Good News, no matter our age. How can we change the world this week?

### **Closing Prayer—*Close with this prayer or one of your own.***

Almighty God, you have created the world and all that is in it. Empower us to make a difference that helps others and brings about Your kingdom. **Amen.**

Scripture verses are from the NRSV unless otherwise noted.

Scripture from <http://www.biblegateway.com>

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