

# Children's picnic liturgy

**Theme: By sharing our gifts we can achieve more than by acting alone**

## Introduction

Picnics are about sharing: sharing our food, our thoughts, our laughter, and even our worries. Sharing makes a big difference. Sharing a meal is much more fun than eating alone. Sharing our thoughts and ideas helps friendships to grow. When someone laughs for joy, they spread happiness. When someone shares a problem, it halves the worry. If Jesus' disciples hadn't shared the good news about his resurrection, we wouldn't be sharing this picnic today.



## Gathering prayer:

*Join hands in a circle around the picnic blanket.*

Through our lips  
let Christ speak.  
Through our hands  
let Christ act.  
Through our hearts,  
let Christ love  
and through our sharing,  
let Christ work. Amen.

## Song:

*This is the day*

This song has a very catchy tune and you can add your own verses.

**This is the day, this is the day,  
That the Lord has made, that the Lord  
has made.**

**We will rejoice, we will rejoice,  
And be glad in it, and be glad in it!  
This is the day that the Lord has made,  
We will rejoice and be glad in it!  
This is the day, this is the day,  
That the Lord has made.**

Make up your own verses, for example:

**This is the day when we share God's word...**

**This is the day when we share our gifts...**

**This is the day when we share our joy...**

## Saying sorry and asking God's forgiveness

Dear Lord,  
We are sorry for the times we have turned our  
back on you and each other. Help us to share  
our gifts so that we can help each other  
become the best people we can be. Amen.

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## Story:

Read the story of the loaves and fishes in John 6:1-14.

Imagine how the little boy felt knowing that what he had shared made a difference to everyone.

Talk with each other about times you have shared something and made a difference.

## Sharing fruits of the spirit

When St Paul wrote to the church in Galatia he encouraged its members to share with each other gifts such as love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. He called these gifts the 'fruits of the Spirit'. (Galatians 5: 22-23) We can share the 'fruits of the spirit' with each other, too. Here is an idea to help you.

**What you need:** basket, paper, coloured pencils and scissors

### Each person to:

- draw, colour in and cut out a fruit – for example, an apple or banana
- choose one of the 'fruits of the Spirit' and write it on their fruit
- write the name, place or situation for which their gift is required, on the other side. For example, 'I ask for the gift of peace in .....
- sit round in a circle with their fruit
- read out their 'prayer' and then place it in the fruit basket as an offering
- take their fruit home at the end of the picnic and use it as a focus for prayer during the week.

After each person says their prayer, everyone could join in with either a sung or said response, for example: Lord, hear our prayer, that we may share our gifts and live more fully.

## Closing prayer:

**We ask Lord Jesus,  
that the gifts we speak of become  
the treasures we share  
and the gifts we receive become the  
riches we give,  
so that your love goes round  
and we all become the best people we can be.  
Amen.**

## Closing hymn

Choose a suitable hymn, such as *Go tell everyone*, *Will you come* and follow me or *When I needed a neighbour* and, if possible, accompany the singing with instruments such as shakers and tambourines.

## Going out

Before everyone leaves the picnic, pass round a bowl containing small bars of Fairtrade chocolate, or an equivalent. Rather than take a bar for themselves, each person passes a bar to the person next to them with the words, "Go and share".



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