

Lenten Prayer Service

Theme: Hunger

LEADER:

Have you ever been hungry, *really hungry*? When and how did you finally satisfy your hunger? For example, if you were hungry because you forgot your lunch, did a teacher offer you some of his or hers? If you had to stay after school and did not have an extra snack, did your mom cook something for you when you got home? Did you make yourself some macaroni and cheese? Did you order take out? Were you alone? Were you with friends? Did you share your food with others?

Hunger is painful. It can make you tired or cranky. How did it feel when you finally had something to eat?

Now, let's listen to this true story about hunger. It is a story that reminds us that during Lent, we can make sacrifices to express our love for God and for one another. By doing something that is very difficult for us or by giving up something we value, we are also reminded of Jesus' great love for us – and His ultimate sacrifice on the Cross.

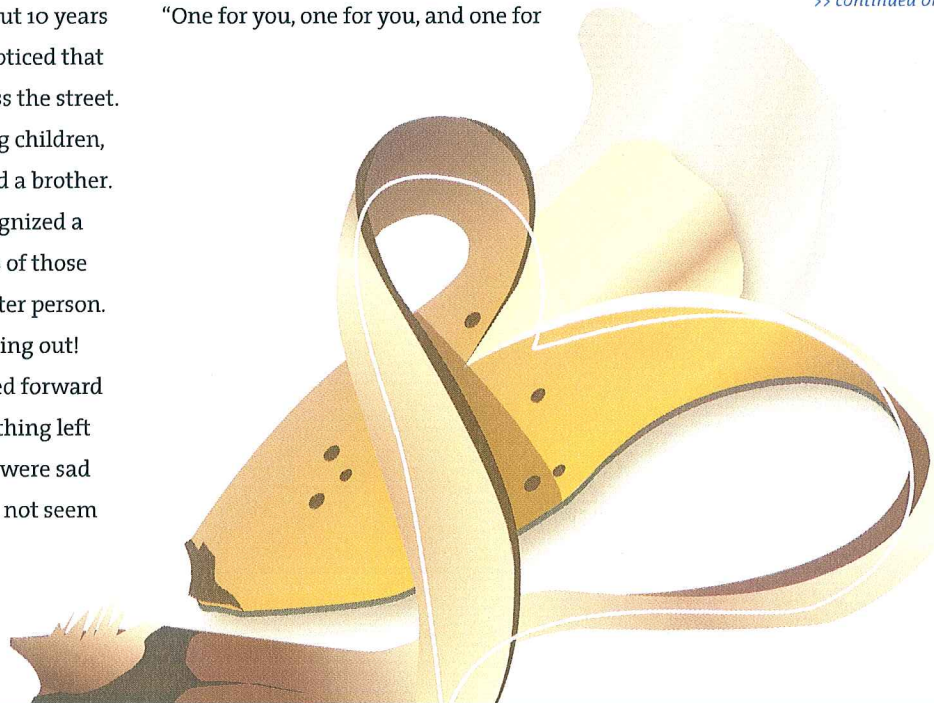
A Story of Hunger & Hope

In 1987, a newspaper photographer was in Ecuador, a country in South America. He watched people line up to receive food several days after a terrible earthquake. People got beans, rice and a piece of fruit. At the very end of the line was a young girl of about 10 years of age. The photographer noticed that this girl kept glancing across the street. Under a tree sat three young children, perhaps her little sisters and a brother. The photographer also recognized a look of concern on the faces of those distributing food, person after person. Their food supply was running out! When the young girl stepped forward to get her portion, the only thing left was a banana. The workers were sad and ashamed. The child did not seem

to mind. She took the banana and ran back across the street toward the three little ones. She sat with them, peeled the banana and carefully divided it into three equal pieces. As she distributed it, the photographer heard her say, "One for you, one for you, and one for

you." Then she sat back and began to lick the inside of the banana peel. The photographer said he had never seen such sacrifice – doing without, so that others might have.

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Lenten Prayer Service

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READER : MATTHEW 22:34-40

Reader: We thank You and praise You, Jesus, for Your sacrifice on the Cross...

All: Teach us what it means to sacrifice and how to share our blessings.

Reader: Let it be done to You all that we do for others...

All: Teach us what it means to sacrifice and how to share our blessings.

Reader: Help us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves...

All: Teach us what it means to sacrifice and how to share our blessings..

Reader: Show us how to respect people who are different from us...

All: Teach us what it means to sacrifice and how to share our blessings.

Reader: Make us missionaries of Your love...

All: Teach us what it means to sacrifice and how to share our blessings.

All: Our Father...

For Further Discussion

As followers of Jesus, as missionaries what can you do to help your friends and family put their prayers into action? You might, for example, pray for a different country and the needs of its people every Friday of Lent; perhaps you can save coins during Lent and offer them to HCA for children in the Missions, or create posters to remind students and members of your parish about the great needs of the Missions.

Grades
to
3 5

Closing Song

"No Greater Love"

by Mark Friedman,

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Or another appropriate song.

