

# Children's Message

CFGB Sunday 2017

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*(Props: a large pail full of rocks, containing at least enough for each child to receive one.)*

Hello, boys and girls. It's good to see you today.

*(Storyteller points at the pail filled with rocks.)* What have I got here? *(Children answer.)*

You're right! I have a pail full of rocks. Can anyone guess why I brought it?

*(Children answer.)* Thanks for your answers!

Before I tell you why I brought the pail full of rocks, I'm going to ask one of you to lift it. *(Storyteller chooses one of the younger children, in order to ensure that he\she can't lift the pail.)* Let's see! Can you lift it?

*(The younger child attempts to lift the pail, but is unable to do so.)* Thanks for trying so hard! Why couldn't he/she lift the pail? *(Children answer.)* You're right! The pail full of rocks is too heavy!

I brought the very heavy pail full of rocks because I want to talk to you about something that can seem heavy and hard to lift. I want to talk to you about world hunger. Many people in the world today don't have enough to eat. When we think about ways to help people who are struggling with hunger, it can seem like a big problem — just like this very heavy and hard-to-lift pail full of rocks! I asked our volunteer to lift the pail full of rocks and he\she couldn't do it. In the same way, not one person alone can lift and carry the heavy load of feeding the entire world's hungry people.

I want you to help me imagine something. What would happen if we were each given a rock to carry? Would it be difficult to lift the pail then? *(Children answer.)* That's right! With each rock we take out, the load will become lighter to carry because we would each be helping to lift it. We would all be happy then because we would be working together to get the job done, instead of having one person alone trying to lift it.

The Bible teaches us that Jesus cares about hungry and poor people and he wants us to care, too. Jesus wants us to work together to care for others. We are a part of his family — of his body, the church — and he has given each of us gifts to share with others.

Let's do something to show how people who love Jesus are working together to carry the heavy, hard-to-lift load of world hunger. *(Storyteller assesses how many children are in the group and decides how to split them up into four groups, each representing a partner in fighting world hunger: 1.) The children, their parents, and church community; 2.) World Renew; 3.) CFGB partners; 4.) Farmers and World Renew staff.)* We're going to split up into four groups. Here's how we'll do it. *(Possibly with the help of someone, Story teller splits the children up into four groups.)*

This group over here reminds us that all of you, your parents, and your church family pray for people who are hungry and ask God to help them. You also give money so that farmers around the world can learn new ways of farming so they can grow more food. I want each of you from that group to take a rock out of the pail and hold it. *(Without moving the pail, helper ensures that each child from this group takes a rock from it.)*

This group over here reminds us of World Renew, an organization that uses the money you collect to help the poor and hungry have enough to eat. I want each of you from that group to take a rock out of the pail and hold it. *(Without moving the pail, helper ensures that each child from this group takes a rock from it.)*

This group over here reminds us that World Renew is a member of a much bigger organization called the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, which also helps feed the poor and hungry. I want each of you from that group to take a rock out of the pail and hold it. *(Without moving the pail, helper ensures that each child from this group takes a rock from it.)*

And this last group reminds us of the local farmers who work together with World Renew staff and partners in the field to grow enough food to feed their families. I want each of you from this last group to take a rock out of the pail and hold it. *(Without moving the pail, helper ensures that each child from this group takes a rock from it.)*

Now each of you is carrying a rock. Is your one rock too heavy to carry? *(Children answer.)* You're right! It's not! We can each do our part, along with organizations and farmers, and work together to make sure all God's children get enough to eat and have the chance to be well. After we pray, you can take your rock home to remind you of what we just talked about.

**PRAYER:** *Dear Lord, thank you that you care about poor and hungry people and that you want us to care, too. Help us to work together with World Renew, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and farmers so that everyone can thrive. In Jesus' name, amen.*