

Lutheran Women's Missionary League = 2015 LWML Sunday
Children's Sermon Thoughts: Seek First the Kingdom of God

Scripture Basis:

Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ... and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well (Matthew 6:26, 32b, 33).

Visual: Any of the following: catalog from a toy store, picture of a bedroom that is overflowing with things, possibly for the parents' benefit a picture of a storage shed crammed full, any picture that shows how overly abundantly we have been blessed by God in the material realm.

Summary: We worry about many things, maybe even worrying that we won't have enough of something, but God sees to it that we will have everything we need and even more since we are His children who He loves dearly.



Good morning boys and girls. I want to begin by asking you a question that you might think is a little strange. How much stuff do you have? I mean, how many toys do you have, how many clothes do you have, how much food do you have, things like that?

(Wait for responses as they tell you how many of each of these things they might have.)

I am guessing that you may be about out of room in your bedroom or in your closet to put more things. Our bedrooms and closets are full. Our parents' rooms and closets are full. Our homes are full, so full in fact that many people have to find other places to put their stuff.

Now, another question? Do you have everything you want? (Pause for answers.) No? Do you have everything you need? (Pause again for answers.) Yes!

So, where do all of these things we have come from? (Accept their answers which will probably be "God," "Mommy and Daddy," "work," and things along that line.) Emphasize for them that it is indeed God our heavenly Father who is the one who gives all these things to us by these various means.

Do God's children, like you and me, who live around the world have too much stuff? Oftentimes they don't. Do they have everything they need? Oftentimes they don't have everything they need either.

Just as God provides for our needs in various ways like moms and dads, grandpas and grandmas, work, allowance, and things like that, how can God provide for what they need? He can use us to take care of their needs through groups like the LWML that your mom might belong to as they help with their mite offerings, giving money to missionaries so that they can tell people about Jesus and take care of some of their physical needs. You see, missionaries do not just tell people about Jesus, but they also share other things like quilts or toys or school supplies or health kits with the people in far-away places who don't have everything they need to live healthy lives. As missionaries share these

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things with them, they also tell them about Jesus, the same Jesus who died on the cross and rose again for them, just as He did for you and me, so that our sins can be forgiven and we can know that one day we will get to live with Jesus in heaven.

How about you? Is there anything you can do? I know you don't have a lot of money, but could you give some of your extra things that are not all worn out to little boys and girls in our community so they can enjoy them too. (Places like a Boys and Girls club, or a shelter, or at Christmas time to a Project Angel Tree, or something along that line.) You could help a missionary and also help little children and their families around the world by giving some of your allowance or birthday money or tooth fairy money by putting it in your mom's Mite Box. (If there is time, brainstorm with the children and receive their ideas. Share other ideas you may have that are in your community.)

Close with prayer:

Dear Jesus, thank You for the many things that You give to me, the greatest of which is the forgiveness of my sins and the promise of eternal life with You in heaven because of Your perfect life, death, and glorious resurrection for me. Help me to want to share some of the things You have given to me, including the message of forgiveness of sins and eternal life with other people so that they too can know of Your love for them. I ask this in Your precious name. Amen!