

# UMCOR Sunday

## Children's Sermon

**Preparation:** *Bring four differently colored crayons.*

Good morning! How are you today?

*Allow children to answer.*

Did you know that today is a special day in the church? Does anyone know what day it is?

*If the pastor or liturgist has already mentioned UMCOR Sunday, ask the children if they remember what (name) said today is called. If no one knows, ask adults.*

That's right. Today is called UMCOR Sunday. What does it mean to share?

*Allow children to answer.*

Do you like sharing? Is sharing a good thing?

*Allow children to answer.*

When you share something, does that mean you have more or less than you did before?

*Allow children to answer. If they do not understand, move on to the example to help illustrate.*

*Give a child (at least 5 years old) four crayons.*

*Ask the child:* Can you share your crayons with (name of another child)?

*If the first child does not give two crayons to the other child, have an older child help.*

OK. Now, (name of first child), do you have more or fewer crayons than you did before?

*Child should say "fewer." Allow child to elaborate if he or she wishes.*

You are right. You have fewer crayons. But now you and (second child's name) can color together! Isn't it more fun to color with a friend than to color alone?

*Allow children to answer.*

If you need that (insert color) crayon that you gave away, do you think your friend would share with you so you could use it? If your friend needed your (insert color) crayon, would he/she share with you?

*Allow children to answer.*

I think all of you would share your crayons so everyone could use any color they need. By sharing, it might look as if you have fewer crayons, but you've gained a friend to color with and still can use all the crayons.

This is a hard lesson to learn for everyone, kids and grownups. Sometimes we forget that sharing helps everyone. Sometimes we don't want to share because we think we would lose something and we forget we would gain something even better.

*Direct to adults in congregation:* How many of the grownups here still have trouble remembering this sometimes?

Here at church, we have people who can help remind us how important it is to share when we forget. You can help us remember too, OK?

Today is a special day for sharing. Can you think of things we can share with others?

*Allow children to answer. Children will probably say crayons, toys, etc. Affirm their answers.*

That's right. We can share many different things. Today we will take a special offering for people to share money. All the money we collect here at our church and that other churches collect in many other places helps people who need food, shelter, school supplies or other things they need to live and grow. When we share what we have with others, we help to share God's love.

**Let's pray.**

Dear God, thank you for sharing your love with us. Help us to share what we have with others. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.