

# Children's Story: Pedro's Gift

**Learning objective:** To enable children to understand that they play an important role in the church and its work. To help children see that sharing is an important part of our Christian faith.

**Recommended time:** 5 minutes

**Recommended ages:** Early childhood, preschool, school-age (ages 2-10)

**Suggested Bible passages:** Leviticus 27:30; Acts 4:34-35; Timothy 4:12

## Pedro's Gift

The last of the rice had been harvested in Pedro's village in the Philippines. It had been a good year with an abundant harvest. Pedro's father loaded his sacks of rice onto the wagon and took them home where he stored them in large baskets, in order to keep the rats from getting into the rice. Rice was their main food for the coming year. He set one sack of rice aside.

Pedro came running into the house, calling: "Dad, can we cut down some banana stalks to decorate the church for the Thanksgiving service tomorrow? You should see how nice it looks already. There are bunches of coconuts, stalks of sugarcane, and baskets of fruit and vegetables already on the platform."

"Sure, son," answered his dad. "Choose the ones with nice leaves, ones that the last typhoon didn't tear up."

On Thanksgiving Sunday morning, Pedro's mother and other women from this church in the Philippines were up early preparing food for the dinner after church. Some of the men were barbecuing a whole pig over the open charcoal pit.

Pedro's family dressed for church. A taxi came to get them. The family climbed in while Pedro's father loaded the sack of rice he had set aside. He called it "the Lord's rice." It was their Thanksgiving offering to God. His Father turned to Pedro and asked, "Pedro, what is your offering to the Lord?"

Pedro was surprised and replied, "Mine? Why, I didn't think I needed to bring anything. I'm not old enough."

"But you have had a good year, Pedro," said his father. "God has given you good health and helped you in school, hasn't he?"

"Well, yes," Pedro replied slowly, "but what can I give God?"

"You have ten beautiful chickens, Pedro. You didn't lose even one this year," his father reminded him.

Pedro walked around to the back of their house where he kept his chickens. He looked thoughtfully at his ten beautiful chickens. He was proud of them. How could he give one away?

The Thanksgiving service was long but beautiful. Six babies were dedicated [or baptized]. The choir sang. The church was full.

Then it was time for the offering when the worshipers took their gifts of money or produce to the altar. Pedro's father put the sack of rice by the Communion table. Pedro joined the others going forward, carrying a beautiful white chicken under his arm. He knelt by the Communion table and placed his chicken on the floor. Then he took the piece of twine that was tied around the feet

of the chicken and tied the other end to the leg of the table.

When he got up, he knew he had given his best to God, who had given so much to him. And he also knew that he didn't have to be a grown up to show his thanks.

### Prayer suggestion:

Dear God, Thank you for all the wonderful things you have given us. Thank you for all the food we get to eat. Thank you for our church and that we can be a part of it. Please be with all the people in the world who do not have enough food. Help us share the things you have given us. Help us respond to the need in our world in a way that is pleasing to you. Help the church [and/or your relief and development organization] as it works to end hunger. Amen.

### Activity opportunity for Sunday school classes:

- Give the children time to plan or initiate their own response to world hunger. You could use this time to prepare a meal or organize a special project or whatever your class decides to do.
- Think about holding a Stone Soup Meal ([foodgrainsbank.ca/stone\\_soup.aspx](http://foodgrainsbank.ca/stone_soup.aspx)) or Ration Meal ([foodgrainsbank.ca/hold\\_a\\_ration\\_meal.aspx](http://foodgrainsbank.ca/hold_a_ration_meal.aspx)). These are great ways for community building within your congregation. If the students want to raise money for your church's relief and development organization or for Canadian Foodgrains Bank, these are also great opportunities to fundraise.



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