

STRANGE BUT TRUE

A Sunday School Lesson for Children or Youth

Sagen was worried about poor school children. She knew that many elementary school children in Warner Robins, Georgia received free school lunches during the school year. But what did they do during the summer months, Sagen wondered? She began thinking of ways to feed the poor people in her area.

In the summer of 1998, Sagen organized 10 churches to help out with the "Kids' Kitchen." She recruited hundreds of volunteers, who packed over 600 lunches every weekday and then distributed to kids who would not otherwise have lunch.

"If you want it bad enough," Sagen says, "you can change your world by helping someone else." After only two summers, Sagen had 130 volunteers and had served 3,600 meals.

It's hard work to organize such a venture, but there is something else that you should know about Sagen. When she started this, she was only 8 years old!

All of us are called to be used by God. It has been said that God does not call the equipped, but God does equip the called. You may not think that you have any talents or abilities that God can use. But God can give you the skills needed. God does not look for your ability as much as your availability. The Lord has equipped, enabled, and empowered you for ministry. If God can use an 8-year-old to feed thousands of children, imagine what amazing things God has in store for you!

By Rev. Joe McKechnie, pastor of Arbor Pointe UMC in Jefferson, Georgia. This and other resources for a "Call Sunday" at your church are available at www.ngumc.org/CultureOfCall.



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Prayers for People Seeking Work



"Do not be dismayed, for I am your
God. I will strengthen you
and help you."

—Isaiah 41:10

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 God, we pray for everyone seeking employment. Please guide their path, give them perseverance, and guard their hearts. Philippians 4:7	2 God, help job seekers uncover the resources available to assist them. Psalm 121:1-2	3 God, be a source of stability to those in transition in their career. Isaiah 43:1-2, 4	4 God, may job networking groups connect employees with qualified, talented job seekers. Proverbs 15:22	5 God, open my ears so that I may hear your call on my life and open my mind so that I follow that call. 2 Corinthians 12:9
6 God, lead my congregation to notice, name and nurture the voice and vocations of young people. Jeremiah 29:11	7 God, grant clarity to people seeking new careers, starting new jobs or changing paths. Psalm 34:8	8 God, give insight to young people making choices about education, training and new opportunities. Romans 8:28	9 God, may those who lose employment not lose their identity or sense of purpose. Lamentations 3:22-24	10 God, bring healing to individuals and families who have experienced job loss. Philippians 4:13	11 God, help me combat self-pity when my work and my life do not go as I planned. Psalm 102:1-2	12 God, thank you for modeling the importance of taking time to back away and rest, to take a weekly Sabbath. Exodus 20:9-10
13 God, inspire us to explore deeper questions about faith and service to the world. Matthew 28:18-20	14 God, may we all find meaningful work that brings us great satisfaction and fulfillment. Colossians 3:23	15 God, inspire job seekers to look to you for council. Psalm 34:8	16 God, we pray for the interview process. Help job seekers ask good questions and communicate their skills. Matthew 6:33	17 God, help each of us identify our gifts, recognize our strengths and curb our weaknesses. Isaiah 41:10	18 God, we pray that during a job search, job seekers encounter kindness and appreciation. 2 Peter 1:5-7	19 God, be with those who are retiring. Inspire then to continue to develop and learn and teach. Romans 15:13
20 God, amplify our offering to children's homes so that it may make a great impact. Isaiah 40:31	21 God, be present with stay-at-home parents as they guide their children through the challenges of growing up. Psalm 127:3	22 God, guide parents as they seek to raise mature productive adults. Matthew 5:16	23 God, thank you for giving each of us gifts, grace and the ability to serve. Romans 12:3-8	24 God, we pray for just economic opportunities for people around the world. Proverbs 3:5	25 God, we pray for fair wages and the opportunity for a better quality of life. Psalm 45:6-7	26 God, be a source of encouragement and hope to people seeking work. Joshua 1:9
27 God, show my church ways to provide practical, personal, and spiritual support to job seekers. Ecclesiastes 4:12	28 God, create a culture of call in my congregation to nurture those who you have called to ordained ministry. Hebrews 10:25	29 God, where are you calling me to go? What are you calling me to do? Philippians 4:6-7	30 God, enable each of us to be thankful for the abundance you have given us. Psalm 23			