A young man went to the market to sell a basket of eggs. He put the basket on a stick and carried it over his shoulder. The young man walked and walked, and he thought: Here I am carrying three hundred eggs. I will sell them at the market for $1 an egg, and I will have $300; and if I manage to sell for twice as much, I'll have $600.

The young man thought some more. With this money I will buy myself a sheep. I will feed her, and she will bring me more sheep. My sheep will grow up, and each will bring more sheep. Look! Here's a whole flock of sheep! I will take this herd to the market. I'll sell them all and I'll make a lot of money.

Then he heard a voice: “Do you need help? And how much of this money will you set aside to help the hungry? What kind of help? thought the young man. I don't need it, and I won't help anyone. And he continued to dream: Then I will buy myself a good horse. I will sit astride my white horse and ride! I'll go straight to the king's court. I will travel from morning till evening, and I will ride my horse in front of the royal court. The horse will stir up the whole field with its hooves.

The tsar’s daughter will sit on the high porch—she will look at and admire me. I will woo the tsar’s daughter and marry her. And she will bear me a son, and we will call him Bogdancho. I will go to the market and buy him apples. When I get home, Bogdancho will run out to meet me at the gate, and I will bend down and hug him and say: “Come to me, son of Bogdancho. Come to your father and I will give you an apple!”

While he walked, the young man extended his hand because he wanted to show how he would hug his son, Bogdancho. Next, the stick slipped off his shoulder, and the basket hit the ground hard! The eggs were broken.

The young man cried: “Oh, grief! All my wealth is gone!”
He began to pick up the eggs that were not smashed to smithereens, and suddenly, he sees a man following him along the road. The young man felt ashamed, and asked the passer-by, “Tell me, friend, how long have you been following me?” The stranger answered, “Since the hour you began to grow rich. I offered you help and asked for cooperation, but you refused.”

The command of God says: “You shall surely give to him, and your heart should not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the Lord your God will bless you in all your works and in all to which you put your hand. For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore I command you, saying, ‘You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and your needy, in your land’” (Deuteronomy 15:10-11, NKJV).

Boys and girls, what are some ways we can provide for others? [Allow for answers]. Very good! Let’s remember these ideas and how we can help others this week.

Let’s pray.