



Harvest – a time to give thanks

10 Collective Worship Plans for Autumn 2021



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich



Introduction

- These collective worships are available for schools to use to support a time of reflection and thankfulness around the season of Harvest.
- Harvest is a time to say thank you to God for all the good things he gives us, and a time when we remind ourselves to share some of what we have with those less fortunate.
- With thanks to for some ideas:
<https://www.brf.org.uk/topics/harvest/>



Worship #1



*Have you ever grown your own food?
Do you know anyone who has?
It takes a lot of love, care and hard work!*

God's people in the Old Testament were warned not to assume that their food would always grow.

Deuteronomy 8:7-11

Good News Translation

⁷The LORD your God is bringing you into a fertile land—a land that has rivers and springs, and underground streams gushing out into the valleys and hills; ⁸a land that produces wheat and barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and honey. ⁹There you will never go hungry or ever be in need. Its rocks have iron in them, and from its hills you can mine copper. ¹⁰You will have all you want to eat, and you will give thanks to the LORD your God for the fertile land that he has given you.

¹¹“Make certain that you do not forget the LORD your God; do not fail to obey any of his laws that I am giving you today.

In our country today we are lucky to have so much.



With plentiful supplies, it can be easy to forget how much we depend on others for our food and we can forget to be thankful for our food and for those who produce it, transport it and sell it to us.



[Watch this harvest video](#)

While watching quietly thank every one who is a part of providing our food.

Time to think or time to pray...

Creator God, thank you for the food that grows from all around the world which we eat from the tables at school and at home. Help us to be thankful for those who produce, harvest and transport our food. May we never forget to use the world's resources wisely and for the good of everybody.

Amen

Song - thank you Lord



Worship # 2

An abundance of choice

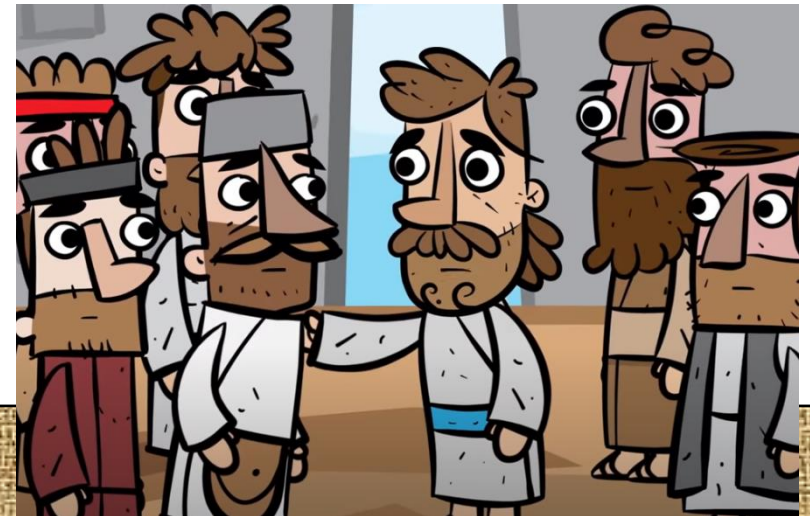
Sometimes we have so much to choose from - it is difficult to decide what to have!



What does the Bible say?

Jesus once told a story about all this. He told it to two brothers who were arguing over money that had been left to them. 'Slow down,' says Jesus. 'Don't you realise that having lots of things - having more and more choices - isn't going to save you! Listen.'

[Watch the parable of the wealthy man](#)

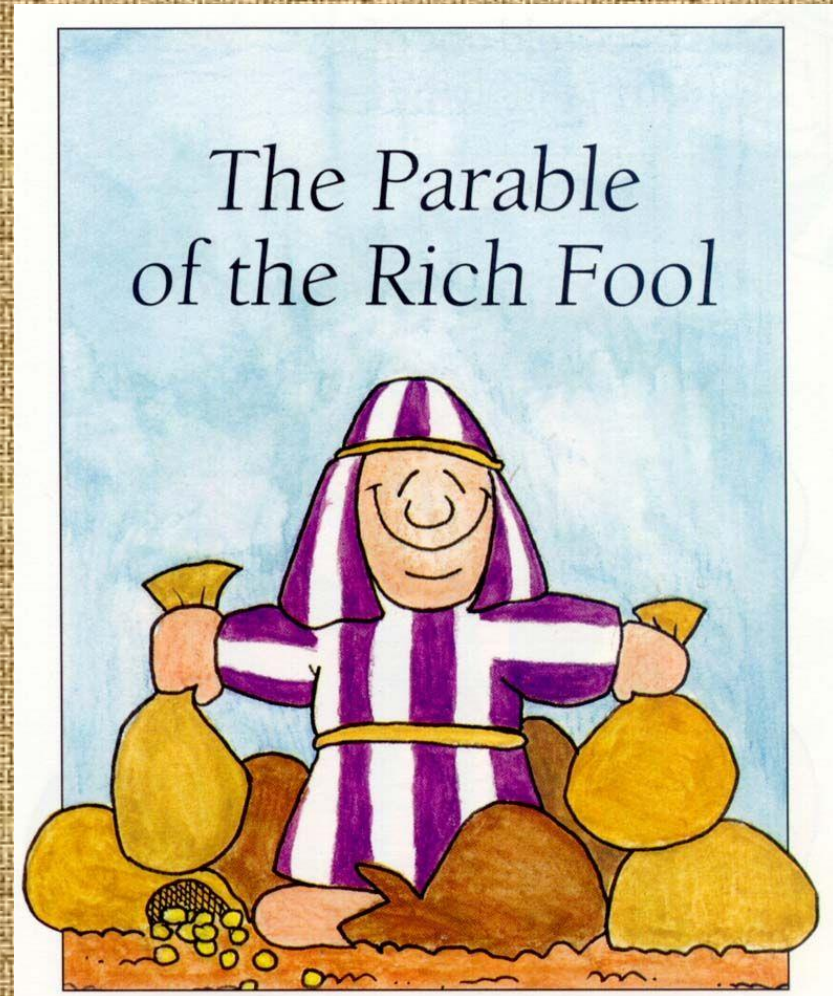


The parable of the wealthy man

A man in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide with me the property our father left us." Jesus answered him, "Friend, who gave me the right to judge or to divide the property between you two?" And he went on to say to them all, "Watch out and guard yourselves from every kind of greed; because your true life is not made up of the things you own, no matter how rich you may be." Then Jesus told them this parable: "There was once a rich man who had land which bore good crops. He began to think to himself, 'I don't have a place to keep all my crops. What can I do? This is what I will do,' he told himself; 'I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, where I will store the grain and all my other goods. Then I will say to myself, Lucky man! You have all the good things you need for many years. Take life easy, eat, drink, and enjoy yourself!' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night you will have to give up your life; then who will get all these things you have kept for yourself?'" And Jesus concluded, "This is how it is with those who pile up riches for themselves but are not rich in God's sight."

The parable of the wealthy man

The rich man, in the parable Jesus tells, certainly has more than enough but he has forgotten to share it with others. His attitude is a challenge to some of us who have enough to eat and a reminder that God's plan is always that blessings should be passed on.



Time to think or time to pray...

I wonder.... what makes us rich in God's eyes?

I wonder... if all our supermarket choices were taken away, what would really matter in the end?

Creator God, provider of all we bring our thanks today for the many choices we have. May you remind us of the need to be grateful always and to remember the things in life which are important such as thinking of others and sharing just like Jesus did. AMEN

[Song - thank you Lord](#)



Worship # 3



FRUIT + VEG

What is your favourite fruit? Can you identify any of these exotic fruits?



What does the Bible say?

OH TASTE & SEE THAT

THE LORD

is good

BLESSED IS THE
MAN WHO TAKES
REFUGE IN HIM

PSALM 34:8



Christians believe God is GOOD!

- He has given us the gift of his world and he wants us to look after it. He has put us in charge.
- He has given us the choice of knowing him and following Jesus. It is up to us to decide.
- God has given us guidance on how to live a good life through the Bible.
- Harvest is not only an opportunity to be thankful for the fruit of the earth but also a time to celebrate the character of God (who he is).



The Bible talks about fruit but its a different kind of fruit, it's called the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is a little like real fruit because they are each special and different too.

God longs to see a harvest of good things in our lives and has given us the Holy Spirit to make this possible. We can try to have love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control but the Spirit will give us the kind of gifts he wants us to have. It's hard to do it on our own, so we need the Spirit to help us with each of these things.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

love,
joy,
peace,
patience,
kindness,
goodness,
faithfulness,
gentleness,
and self-control



Galatians 5:22-23

Which of these fruits would be good to see more of in school?

Time to think or time to pray...

Creator God, provider of all
we bring our thanks today.
And we bless each other
that the beauty of this world
and the love that created it
might be expressed though our
lives and be a blessing to others
now and always
AMEN

*(Jesus said) You did not choose me. I chose you and
sent you out to produce fruit, the kind of fruit that will
last*
John 15:16

[Song - thank you Lord](#)
[Song - cauliflowers fluffy](#)



Worship # 4

What does it mean to be a citizen of the world?



Harvest is a good time to remind ourselves of the importance of showing compassion towards others and to focus on some of the big and pressing needs of our world.



I am a global citizen
I should have a care
For every rock and animal
With whom this Earth I share

Are you here to worship? Are you keen to learn about God? Do you want to do the right thing?

Do you enjoy God's love? We'll get this one thing straight!

God won't enjoy your worship; God won't be interested in your prayers, If you're only thinking about yourselves.

And about what a good time you're having; All your singing and all your praying; All your services and all your praises; Even your finest harvest thanksgiving, Is empty of meaning if you don't care for the poor!

So, help those who are being unjustly treated; Share your food with those who are hungry;

Open your homes to those who are in need of shelter; Lend out your goods to those who have fallen on hard times.

This is the way to shine with God's light. This is the way to earn God's 'well done'. This is the way you will grow in your faith.

This is the way you'll discover God's presence. And this is the way God's love will flow like water from your life into the desert of the world. This is the way to know the Lord. This is the way to experience God's blessing.

- Isaiah 58

What does the Bible say?

Time to think or time to pray...

Take a moment to think about or pray for those people around the world facing hardship and difficulty at this time of harvest.

me@theworld.com

As each of us is a world citizen, you could say that our email address could be me@theworld.com but what might the com stand for? Might it be?

me@theworld.com**comfortable** - Are we like the people Isaiah told us about - too comfortable with looking inwards on ourselves and not outwards into the world?

me@theworld.com**complacent** - Are we like the people Isaiah told us about, complacent with the way things are and not wanting to notice all that is wrong with our world?

me@theworld.com**complicit** - Are we like the people Isaiah told us about, complicit with the way things are because it suits us, our finances and our need to be in control and on top?

me@theworld.com**compassionate** - Or will we pay attention to what Isaiah is saying and put on a new attitude of compassion to those in need, wherever and whoever they are? What will it mean for us to share the gift of compassion this harvest time?

Just as Isaiah the prophet challenged people in his day, maybe this harvest time you could:

- find out more about Fair Trade
- take seriously the support of a Christian aid agency working in the developing world
- visit and help with a local food bank
- get involved with a local project that serves the needy, the vulnerable or the homeless in your community
- write to a local councillor or MP about an issue of the moment where compassion is needed

Time to think or time to pray...

A final prayer taken from Isaiah 58:10-11:

Give your food to the hungry and care for the homeless and then your light will shine in the dark and the Lord will always guide you.

By the grace of God we will.

[Song - Harvest Samba](#)



Worship # 6

*What do
seeds need
to grow
well?*





What does the Bible say?

[Parable of the farmer and the seeds](#) - click here

Is this really a story about a gardener who wasted a lot of seeds, or is it about something totally different?

- Are you in the parable somewhere?
- Is God in it?
- Is your school in it?



Jesus explained to the people listening that the seeds that fall on good ground are like the people who listen to what God says and live in a way that pleases him, even when life is difficult. Jesus said that people who do this will grow good fruit in their lives.



Time to think or time to pray...


Think about what is 'growing' in your life....
....maybe it is kindness or respect for others.
Maybe you need other things to grow in your
life like self control or patience. Think about
your school values. Which do you need to
practice?

God of harvest, gardener supreme
you place us at the centre
feed us, equip us and having provided for us
look to a different harvest
a fruitfulness of lives
in service to you and others.
God of harvest,
feed us prune us
harvest us that our lives
might bring glory to you. Amen

[Song – We plough the seeds and scatter](#)



Worship # 7



Harvest is a time to give thanks.
What do you feel like saying thank you for today?



Christians thank God because he has given us all that we need.

The promise of a regular harvest is first given by God to Noah following the flood and is sealed by the sign of the rainbow

What does the Bible say?

As long as the world exists, there will be a time for planting and a time for harvest. There will always be cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night.

Genesis 8:22

As a sign of this everlasting covenant which I am making with you and with all living beings, I am putting my bow in the clouds. It will be the sign of my covenant with the world. Whenever I cover the sky with clouds and the rainbow appears, I will remember my promise to you and to all the animals that a flood will never again destroy all living beings. When the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between me and all living beings on earth. That is the sign of the promise which I am making to all living beings.

Genesis 9: 12 - 15a

Time to think or time to pray...

Creator God, You made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons; As we thank you for the harvest may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

[Who put the colours in the rainbow - song](#)
[Song - Autumn Days](#)



Worship # 8

*What do you
like to share
with others?
Is sharing
always easy?*



[Jesus feeds the 5,000 - watch](#)

In the feeding of the 5,000 Jesus made sure that everyone had what they needed. Jesus wants us to do all we can to make sure that everyone, whoever they are, has what they need. Jesus said to give food to all those who need it. He shared his love with everyone, and he wants us to do the same.



The challenge for us all is to believe that the little we have is worth offering to others - one tin of food in a foodbank basket makes a difference to someone, one conversation with someone who is lonely can make their day. Sharing the things we have can have a huge impact not just on others but also on ourselves: it can teach us to value people, friendship and community more than the things we own. If we all do small things to look after those around us who are in need, together we can achieve something great in our community.



Time to think or time to pray...

How could you be more generous with what you have?

Let's take a few moments of quiet to think about what small things we could do to make a big difference to someone else. This could be sharing something you have or giving your time to someone - it doesn't matter how small, but doing the smallest thing can have a big impact.

Generous God

we thank you for all your gifts.

Help us to think of the needs of others.

You show us how to love and share with everyone.

We pray that we may truly share what we have, and so help our sisters and brothers throughout the world.

Amen. [Song - all that is good](#)



Worship # 9



Do you know this story?

Ariana and the Wonder Beans



christian
aid

Unlike Jack's story, which began with selling a cow to get some beans, Ariana's story starts by having beans already - coffee beans!



- This is Arianna. She is five years old and lives with her mum, Angela, and her 15-year-old sister Johaira.



They live in a village called Santa Rosa, in Nicaragua in South America.



Angela used to make a living by growing coffee beans, which provided a good income for the family. However, in recent years, the weather in Nicaragua has been unpredictable because of climate change and this has made it harder to grow coffee.



Angela explained: 'With climate change, the coffee suffers from many diseases and pests. The sun has scorched the coffee beans, we cannot sell them and we're losing more every year because of climate change. When I was a kid, the weather was totally different. It's been changing a lot and we don't know when it's the rainy season or the dry season. There's been days with rain, then days with lots of sun.'



christian
aid

To solve the problem, Angela and her neighbours who are also farmers, have joined together to help each other out and, with the support of an organisation called Soppexcca and the charity Christian Aid, have swapped their coffee beans for cocoa beans. Changing the crops that you normally grow is called diversification.



The wonder cocoa beans are amazing, not only because they can grow in changing weather conditions but because they are also used to produce chocolate! The beans also have lots of other uses.





The neighbours help each other out. They look after the crops together and share tools and knowledge. This means they can grow a bigger crop and then, at harvest time, they can get a better price for their beans, which enables them to buy food, medicine and clothes.



Everyone in the community has a part to play in helping the beans grow. Young people, like Ariana's sister Johaira, are trained as youth promoters who visit the farmers to record their progress and share know-how. It's helped build trust between the generations.



Ariana really wants to be a farmer when she grows up: 'When I grow up, I would also like to grow cocoa. I really like cocoa!'

Love knows no distance.

Around the world, many of our global neighbours living in poverty continue to face difficulties. Love knows no distance. We can all reach out to our global neighbours and help more communities overcome hard times.



Time to think or time to pray...

Leader: For the beauty of a country scene

All: We praise you Lord for sight

Leader: For the coolness of a mountain stream

All: We praise you Lord for touch

Leader: For nightingale in tuneful flow

All: We praise you Lord for ears

Leader: For the taste of fruit that we have grown

All: We praise you Lord for senses



Worship # 10 -
Bible chat mat

Psalm 65

People all over the world
and across the distant seas trust in you.
You set the mountains in place by your
strength,
showing your mighty power.
You calm the roar of the seas
and the noise of the waves;
you calm the uproar of the peoples.
The whole world stands in awe
of the great things that you have done.
Your deeds bring shouts of joy
from one end of the earth to the other
You show your care for the land by sending
rain; you make it rich and fertile.

You fill the streams with water;
you provide the earth with crops.
This is how you do it:
you send abundant rain on the plowed fields
and soak them with water;
you soften the soil with showers
and cause the young plants to grow.
What a rich harvest your goodness provides!
Wherever you go there is plenty.
The pastures are filled with flocks;
the hillsides are full of joy.
The fields are covered with sheep;
the valleys are full of wheat.
Everything shouts and sings for joy.

[click here for link to chat mat](#)



What is your favourite part of the story? Why?

The whole world stands in awe of the great things that you have done.

IT'S HARVEST TIME

Psalm 65
Verses 5-13

Thank God for Harvest and pray for those who find this season difficult.

How many ears of corn and wheat can you find?

What did you learn about God from this story?

How could you share the love of God this harvest?