

Resources for the Church Leader



Harvest
Appeal
2018



All age talk: Just Add Water

Use this fun, interactive talk to involve your whole congregation in WaterAid's 2018 Harvest Appeal.

You will need:

- Two sets of tea-making equipment: teacup, saucer, spoon, teapot, sugar, milk, teabag etc
- 2 tea towels
- All age talk PowerPoint, Evelyne's story and the harvest appeal film (all available to download at www.wateraid.org/uk/harvest)

Before the service, hide the equipment underneath the tea towels at the front of church.

Slide 1: Ask for volunteers willing to complete a simple everyday task. Once in two teams, let your volunteers know they have to compete to make a cup of tea the quickest. The volunteers will soon realise that they can't complete the task without any water! What other activities do the congregation think water is essential for?

Slide 2: Explain that during harvest, Christians spend time giving thanks for the food they eat. It is all thanks to water that we are able to eat such delicious food. Ask if anyone in the congregation grows their own food, can they explain how important water is for this?

Slide 3: Let the congregation know that this talk is all about the charity WaterAid. Has your church or any of the congregation supported WaterAid in the past? Explain that as the name suggests WaterAid thinks water is very important! WaterAid works in some of the world's poorest communities to deliver clean water, decent sanitation and good hygiene. They are dedicated to ensuring everyone, everywhere has access to these essential resources within a generation.

Slide 4: This year, WaterAid's Harvest Appeal focuses on the importance of water to grow food. One in nine people around the world don't have access to clean water near their homes. This makes it very difficult to grow food, wash it, cook it (and even to wash up afterwards!). WaterAid has been working with people like Evelyne, in Burkina Faso to make sure they have a harvest to celebrate this year too. Share Evelyne's story or the appeal film now, both available to download at www.wateraid.org/uk/harvest.

Slide 5: Explain that your church is supporting WaterAid by hosting a harvest supper or collection to help reach more families like Evelyne's. Use this opportunity to invite your whole congregation to your harvest supper and thank them for giving even more communities a harvest to celebrate. You could close the talk with the prayer (overleaf) written by WaterAid supporter Revd Greg Bartlem.

Sermon notes for a harvest service

Use this outline to share more about WaterAid's work and reflect with your congregation on stewardship of the earth and its precious resources this harvest.

Suggested reading:

- Genesis 1

You will need:

- Moustapha's story (available to download at www.wateraid.org/uk/harvest)

Christians believe that the story of creation in Genesis describes how God created order out of chaos, separating light from darkness, and land from water. It shows how God created birds, fish, animals and plants, and finally human beings, the pinnacle of His creation. Human beings were given the role of stewards, to make use of the precious resources earth provides but also to take care of it for future generations.

One of the most precious resources on the planet is water. We rely on it for so many things. Try and count how many times you have used water already today. It will be lots! It is a good job then that about 71% of the earth's surface is covered in water.

Much of this water is in the vast oceans or frozen in glaciers. However, there is enough clean, accessible water for everyone on earth, and this is why it is so important that this precious resource is managed well. There are still one in nine people across the world who don't have access to clean water near their homes. WaterAid, the charity your church is

supporting this harvest, believes it should be normal for everyone, everywhere to have enough water to grow food, wash it, cook it (and to be able wash up afterwards too!). As you celebrate harvest this year, your congregation's support will mean even more communities can have access to one of earth's most precious resources.

Communities like Sablogo, in Burkina Faso, where WaterAid have been working with families to use and manage their water supply effectively. WaterAid, and their local partners, installed water technologies in Sablogo and trained people like Moustapha, as water monitors to make better use of rainfall and harvest more crops for their families.

Share Moustapha's story (available at www.wateraid.org/uk/harvest) with your congregation.

As you lead your congregation in a reflection on Genesis 1, the responsibilities of managing the earth's precious resources and the incredible difference WaterAid's work made to Moustapha's family, also give thanks for the delicious food you are able to eat because of water. You could finish with the thanksgiving prayer written by WaterAid supporter Revd Greg Bartlem.

Prayer

God, who created our wonderful planet. We thank you for the abundant resources that the world provides. At this harvest time we especially thank you for the food that we eat and the water that is needed to grow our food, to wash our food, to cook our food and to wash up afterwards.

We pray for the work of WaterAid as they seek to ensure everyone, everywhere has access to the water they need.

Amen

Revd Greg Bartlem, Vicar, Diocese of Coventry