

Harvest Appeal 2017 all age talk



Life-giving
bottles

Harvest 2017

Use this talk to involve your whole congregation in WaterAid's life-giving bottles appeal.

This harvest, churches across the UK are supporting communities in Zambia and around the world, who are unable to access enough water to grow food for their family. You'll learn how simple borehole technologies can give communities year round access to clean water even during drought.

You will need:

- **A variety of different vegetables**
- **Table**
- **Tablecloth**
- **Blindfold**

Set up a table before the service and put all the vegetables you have brought onto it. Cover them with a tablecloth.

Slide One

Welcome the congregation by asking them to raise their hands if they love vegetables! Ask some of those who raised their hands to share why they love vegetables and what their favourite vegetable is.

Explain that you brought some vegetables along with you today and you need the congregations' help to identify each one. Ask for two volunteers to join you at the front. (You could have one young and one adult volunteer for this activity.) Let the volunteers know that you are going to make it a bit harder for them as one volunteer will be blindfolded! Ask



the younger volunteer to help you to blindfold your adult volunteer and let them know that they have the very important job of guiding the blindfolded volunteer to the table where they have to guess what each vegetable is.

Check that the blindfolded volunteer can't see and then reveal the table to everyone else. Your younger volunteer can hand the vegetable to the blindfolded volunteer and if they get stuck they can offer clues to the colour or taste of each vegetable.

Once all the vegetables have been successfully identified thank the volunteers and ask them to sit down.

Slide Two

Can anyone in your congregation guess why you have been talking about vegetables. It is because at this time of year we celebrate harvest, a time when Christians give thanks to God for all the wonderful food available.

What sort of things do people thank God for at harvest? Christians might give thanks for the farmers who grow our food, the fertile soils that the food grows in or the rain which makes growing food possible. However, in some parts of the world, climate change is bringing more extreme weather events making rainfall much less reliable.

Harvest is also about remembering those people around the world who aren't as fortunate as ourselves and especially those who aren't able to grow enough food for their family.

In some parts of the world, climate change is causing longer dry seasons and even drought. In 2016, countries in southern Africa experienced the worst drought in 35 years. During the drought millions of people were left without food and water. The situation was especially bad in some regions of Zambia where mums and dads were forced to forage in bushes for leaves and seeds just to feed their children.



Slide Three

However, WaterAid had already started working with communities in this region to install boreholes. Does anyone in your congregation know what a borehole is? A borehole is a way of collecting water from the ground, which involves drilling down until clean water is found and bringing it up to the surface.

WaterAid drills boreholes at the hottest and driest time of year in Zambia which is when water in the ground is at its lowest meaning the borehole will reach water all year round.

Slide Four

Thanks to this technology, families like Enita's were unaffected when drought struck last year. Just look at Enita's fantastic harvest! Enita says the borehole in her community means she is always able to feed her children tasty and nutritious meals, she even grows vegetables like sweet potatoes and corn which she sells to make extra money.

Just a simple borehole meant that Enita's family ate three healthy meals a day despite the worst drought in 35 years. Churches across the UK are joining together this harvest to help install even more boreholes like this in communities in Zambia and across the world so that every family is able to have water to drink and food to eat. How amazing would it be if everyone was able to celebrate harvest just as we are today?

Finish by encouraging your congregation to get involved in the life-giving bottles appeal and use this as a chance to celebrate anyone in your group who has already begun collecting change in their life-giving bottle. You could use the fundraising tips (available at www.wateraid.org/harvest) to inspire your congregation to fill their life-giving bottle with change.

