

Church Leader Resources



Harvest
Appeal
2021

Sermon notes for a harvest service

Use this outline to reflect on the importance of good harvests for communities around the world and to inspire your congregation about WaterAid's work.

Harvest is a wonderful time for coming together, celebrating and giving thanks for all the food we eat.

But it's also a time to reflect, and to think about other communities around the world who don't have enough to eat. Families who can't celebrate good harvests because they don't have enough water.

In the world's poorest communities, most people are farmers. Whether in the steep terraced hills of Nepal or in small back garden plots in Ethiopia, families rely on farming to feed themselves and to earn an income. Their lives depend on their produce, which must pay for household expenses, school, medicines, and more.

But growing successful crops depends on having a reliable water supply, which many of the poorest people don't have. Instead, they have to depend on rainfall. And when the rains don't come, families have to watch their precious crops fail.

Bernesh, a mother in Ethiopia, relies on growing coffee to earn money. But when the rains didn't fall on time, her harvest was affected.

Unfortunately, our changing climate is impacting people like Bernesh the most, who are least able to prepare and protect themselves. Unpredictable rain, droughts and floods are all becoming more common, making life even harder for the poorest people, who tread lightest on this planet.

That's why our church is supporting WaterAid this harvest. With our help, WaterAid will bring a steady supply of clean water to more communities like Bernesh's, that will keep pumping through drought or flood. For the first time, they will have clean water to drink, and will be able to grow crops that flourish, year after year.

Together, we can make sure others have harvests to celebrate too.



Bernesh's daughter, Bosena, 9, handing snacks to her siblings and mother while they gather to have coffee.



Our changing climate is making it more difficult for farmers to grow crops and earn a living.



All age talk: Harvests to celebrate

Use this fun, interactive talk to involve your whole congregation in our 2021 Harvest Appeal.

Begin by asking the congregation what harvest is all about. What do we celebrate?

Then get everyone thinking about what we need to grow food: good soil, sunshine, water. Where does that water come from? And where can it come from?

Next, talk about how our climate is changing. Temperatures are rising, rainfall is becoming more unpredictable, and floods and droughts more common. This is impacting people's ability to grow food.

Let's think about what happens when there is too little water. In times of drought, plants wither and die, leaving families without a harvest, and without precious income.

And what happens when there is too much water? Floods can destroy crops and ruin fields. Fertile topsoil can be washed away, leaving future crops nowhere to set roots.

Explain that the poorest people are impacted the most by our changing climate. Without a reliable supply of clean water, they are least able to prepare and protect themselves.

Share the story of Bernesh. Water was extremely scarce in her village, so her community had to rely on unpredictable rain for farming. When the rain didn't come, it affected how much coffee they could produce, and as their main source of income, the impact on families was huge. Having a supply of clean, reliable water means families like Bernesh's can stay healthy, their coffee will grow well and they will be able to celebrate good harvests, year after year – come rain or shine.

This harvest, we're fundraising for WaterAid, to help give more families like Bernesh's a water supply that keeps pumping through drought and flood. With clean water, families can stay healthy, grow crops that flourish, and earn a decent living. They will have harvests to celebrate. And if disaster strikes, they will have the resources to respond and recover.

You will need:

Our accompanying All age talk PowerPoint (available to download at wateraid.org/uk/harvest)



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"Water is very important for coffee plantation. If the coffee plant doesn't get water, it dries up."

Bernesh, Amhara region, Ethiopia