



ACTIVITY BANK

Welcome to the Harvest Activity Bank.

This collection of ideas will give you a range of options to engage with Harvest in a fun and creative way.

Please browse through the document, or click the links below to jump straight to the section you need:

» [Creative Ideas](#)

» [Illustrations](#)

» [Games](#)

HARVEST





CREATIVE IDEAS

Thankful Tree

You will need:

- brown poster board paper or a display board
- hand cut-out templates on different coloured paper
- pens
- sticky tape

Create a tree trunk using brown poster board or draw on a display board. Hand out the paper hands and pens. Ask people to write or draw things that God has created and/or provided for them. Take time to say thank you to God for these wonderful things. After all the handprints are completed, add them to the tree trunk with sticky tape. This could be done as a display on a bulletin board or a wall.

Harvest Hands

You will need:

- hand cut-outs on white paper
- pens or pencils

'What a huge harvest! And how few the harvest hands. So on your knees; ask the God of the Harvest to send harvest hands' (Luke 10:2 MSG).

Ask people to colour in their hands with their favourite animal, person, colour, food – challenge them to be creative.

Use these hands to reflect on the fact that the way we act with our hands allows people to see Jesus in us and through us.

As a commitment to using our hands in a way which honours and serves God, encourage people to 'high five' each other and give a 'high five' to the God of the Harvest who is our hero!

Potato Printing

You will need:

- green paper, A4 or larger
- potatoes, cut in half
- cut into some of the potatoes to make simple shapes for printing
- a range of paint colours on paper plates

The green paper represents a field, our harvest field. Get people to use the potatoes to create a picture of somewhere they go regularly – such as school, work, home, shops, nursery. Or make a giant image all together of your church building or key landmark of your community.

Spend some time thinking and praying about how we can serve God just where we are.

Prayer beads

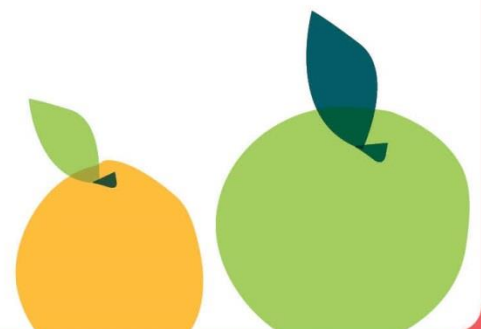
You will need:

- cord or strong thread
- assorted beads
- rings to make key chains (can be bought from retailers that cut keys)

Ask each person to think about people they know who have not yet heard about Jesus, or who do not come to church. Choose a different bead to represent each person. Thread the beads on cord to make a bracelet, a necklace or a keychain.

Talk about how we can tell the people we know about Jesus and invite them along.

HARVEST





A Perfect World

You will need:

- large paper or cardboard circle
- collage material – magazines, fabric, newspapers, photos
- pens, pencils, glue and scissors

Get people into groups and ask them to create a perfect world with the collage material. Ask them to include what it would look like, what would be in it, the jobs people could do, as well as any other creative ideas.

‘God saw all that he had made, and it was very good’ (*Genesis 1:31*)

Discuss how our perfect world compares with what God thought was very good.

Read Colossians 1:16 *MSG* and compare with Colossians 1:16 *NIV*. What does it mean when the Scripture says, ‘*Everything* got started in him and finds its purpose in him’ (*Message Version*) or ‘All things have been created through him and for him’ (*NIV*)? Does this have a significant meaning to you? Consider what God is saying to you about how you can live for him in your life.

God Made All Things Good

You will need:

- large pieces of blue and green paper to make an image of sky, land and sea
- tissue paper, animal textured card, felt and fabric scraps
- animal templates, pens, crayons and pencils, glue and scissors

Cut out shapes of birds, animals, fish, insects, plants to stick on to each part of your landscape. Talk about the food harvests we get from the sky, land and sea. Thank God for his abundant provision for us and all living things. Pray that we will do what is required to serve and preserve his creation.

Potato Cress Heads

You will need:

- one potato per person
- cotton wool balls, cress seeds, a jug of water, a sharp knife and teaspoons
- felt-tips, stick-on googly eyes, sticky squares and foam bits for face details

First cut off the top and bottom of the potatoes so they can stand unsupported and have a flat top. With a teaspoon, each person then carves out a small dip in the top of their potato. Use the craft resources to turn each potato into a face. Next place a cotton wool ball into each dip on the top and moisten with a couple of teaspoons of water. Sprinkle on some cress seeds and monitor how they grow to create hair!

HARVEST





ILLUSTRATIONS

Harvest Unscramble

You will need:

- seven volunteers, each holding a letter that spells out HARVEST
- an eighth person, who is given an object to hold that represents each answer as the clues are solved
- teapot and mug
- cereal box, bread and chocolates
- globe and flowers
- rubber ring and fishing net
- Blanket and hot water bottle
- vest or a jumper as a substitute
- pillow
- plastic or paper-made ears

Ask the volunteers to rearrange themselves into the answers to the following questions:

1. A drink we can thank God for – *TEA*
2. Something we can do with our mouths – *EAT*
3. Thank God for the Earth, for the land and for the – *SEA*
4. We thank God for shelter and for the warmth of – *HEAT*
5. For the clothes we wear including a – *VEST*
6. We thank God for the life and energy he gives us, and also for times of – *REST*
7. We thank God for our bodies, and that we can hear with – *EARS*
8. Thank God for what we live on – *EARTH*

THANKS is an important part of harvest. The other part is GIVING. There are three words hidden within the word HARVEST that show us how we can give. Ask the volunteers to make each of these words as you share them.

Luke 6:38 says: 'Give, and it will be given to you.' This is the nature of our God.

So how can we give back to God? – The first word is *SAVE*.

As Christians we need to be more environmentally friendly and we shouldn't waste resources when so many in the world don't have as much as we have. So *SAVE*!

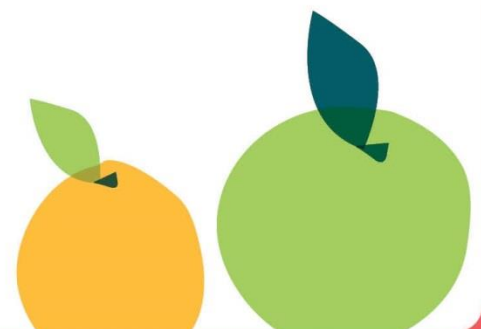
The second word related to our giving is – *SHARE*.

Jesus' whole life was about sharing and caring.

(Now ask a few people to help with the items that our overburdened helper is holding.) By doing this we are sharing the load, and also sharing the good things like the chocolates! We live in a really unjust world and we need to share with those who don't have enough – it's what Jesus would do.

The third word, and probably the most important area of giving, is that we need to give to God our – *HEARTS*.

HARVEST





Getting Your Hands Dirty

You will need:

- a large plastic tub filled with compost and small potatoes
- trowels
- plastic gloves
- several smaller tubs labelled 'jacket potatoes', 'mash', 'boiled', 'chips', 'wedges', 'crisps'

Encourage people to dig up (harvest) a potato from the large tub.

Talk about what would happen if the vegetables were not dug up. *They would be spoiled, wasted, would not fulfil their purpose, would not be given the opportunity, would not be made into yummy chips!* They need to be harvested to be used and to produce more.

Use the potatoes to allow each person to vote for their favourite use for potatoes, by placing their potato in the appropriate container.

Touch/Feel/Taste

You will need:

- a display of fruit and vegetables of all shapes and sizes
- pictures (or real examples) of odd-shaped fruit and vegetables
- prepared fruit and vegetables to taste – PLEASE BE AWARE OF ALLERGIES

Allow people to taste, smell and feel the produce. Talk about how the produce comes in all different shapes, colours, sizes and tastes, but they are all good for us and help keep us healthy and fit.

Link this with how we are all different but we all have a job to do for Jesus.

Harvesting in a Messy World

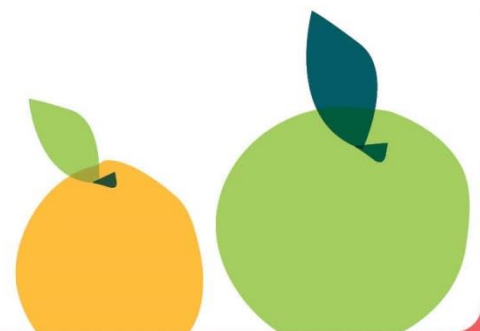
You will need:

- a large bowl or bucket full of green jelly
- lots of chopped-up vegetables
- straw or hay
- some wrapped sweets or some other 'treasure'

Before your gathering, make up the jelly with the vegetables and straw mixed in, and the wrapped sweets or treasure at the bottom.

Ask people to put their hand in the jelly to 'harvest' something (their reward) from the bottom. Yuck! Talk about how our world is a messy place, where things aren't always lovely, but we still need to tell others about Jesus, even if we are reluctant to. The rewards of doing what Jesus wants and of seeing others following him are amazing!

HARVEST





GAMES

Kingdom Seeds

You will need:

- seeds – such as mustard, cress, sunflower, beans and carrot
- pictures of the plants that match the seeds
- pots, blotting paper or cotton wool, table covering, water, a watering can, something to stand the pots on after watering
- paper and pens

Show the seeds you've brought. Ask people to guess which seed goes with which picture.

- What do they think are the conditions that will be needed to grow these seeds?
- What would be the conditions that were unhelpful to seeds' growth?
- What can you do to help yourself grow into a strong helper of Jesus?

Share the parable of the mustard seed (Matthew 13:31-32).

Give each person a seed to hold in their hands. Discuss how it needs to be nurtured to grow. Draw parallels to using the Bible, prayer and developing our friendship with God. This nurturing helps us to grow into a stronger, healthier friend of his, so he can use us to make a positive difference in other people's lives.

Finish with a time of seed planting. Encourage people to look after their plants at home and to bring them back at a later date to compare how they have grown.

Being Grateful

You will need:

- two large sheets of paper and pens

Form two teams and give them five minutes to write down as many things as they can think of that they are thankful for – they must be things that they are genuinely thankful for. At the end ask each team to read out what they've written. Give a point for each thing they've listed, but the other team, or anyone watching, can challenge them to justify what they've written if they don't think it's genuine.

Someone once said, 'Gratitude is the best attitude.'

Recent scientific studies have suggested that people who are more grateful have higher levels of wellbeing and happiness and lower levels of stress and depression. In fact, showing gratitude has been said to have one of the strongest links with good mental health, more than any other character trait. Scientists have also discovered that gratitude not only increases wellbeing and happiness, but has also been shown to improve a person's altruistic tendencies. That means that people who are grateful are more likely to give, to share what they have with others and to sacrifice their own profit for the benefit of the wider community.

HARVEST





The Green Quiz

1. A well-known saying – what is always greener on the other side? (Grass)
2. What is the permit needed to work in USA? (Green card)
3. Name a fruit related to the plum. (Greengage)
4. What is a greenback? (US dollar)
5. Name the famous novel by Lucy Montgomery. (*Anne of Green Gables*)
6. 'The Green Door' was a 1981 number one UK hit for whom? (Shakin' Stevens)
7. Where do celebrities relax before they appear on TV? (Green room)
8. The 'green-eyed monster' is a phrase well known for jealousy – in which Shakespeare play does it play a central role? (*Othello*)
9. Name a precious green stone. (Emerald)
10. Where is the Emerald Isle? (Ireland)
11. Who turned green when he got angry? (The Incredible Hulk)
12. What product was advertised by the Jolly Green Giant? (Green Giant sweetcorn)
13. Name two or more London Tube stations containing the word 'Green'. (Bethnal Green, Bounds Green, Golders Green, Greenford, Greenwich, Green Park, Kensal Green, North Greenwich, Parsons Green, Stepney Green, Turnham Green, Willesden Green, Wood Green)
14. A gardener is often referred to as what? (Green-fingered)
15. Someone who is said to be 'green around the gills' is feeling what? (Sick)

A Closer Look

You will need:

- High-resolution photographs of different animals/objects
- Suggested images: bugs, a spider's web, the Earth

Firstly show a tiny section of the photograph zoomed in and ask people to guess what it might be. Then show the original image so that people can see what it really is. Do the same with each image you have selected. Share that God's creation is perfect and detailed and that he is worthy of our praise.

HARVEST

