



# HARVEST



## PREPARATION

- + Service sheet outline or slide presentation with songs, prayers...
- + Invite families to bring a tin of food for distribution for those in need.
- + Research this year's Helping-Hand Appeal and arrange a special fundraiser in aid of this – [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/helping-hand-2018](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/helping-hand-2018).
- + Books: *The Little Red Hen* (various) or *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* (Eric Carle).
- + Fruit and Vegetable Printing:
  - ▶ paper
  - ▶ paint
  - ▶ various fruit and vegetables
- + Sowing Mustard and Cress:
  - ▶ small yoghurt/jelly pot
  - ▶ stickers to decorate
  - ▶ cotton wool
  - ▶ mustard and cress seeds
- + A variety of musical instruments

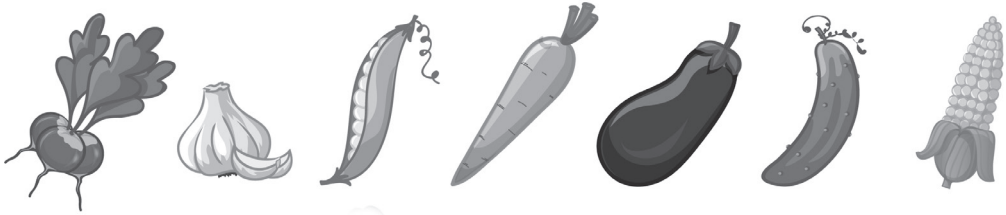


## INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Harvest is the special Christian festival when we take time to thank God for everything he provides for us, but particularly for food.

It is traditional that people bring gifts to church at Harvest – usually of food, and these are shared out to people in need. It is also a time when we sing praise and give thanks to God for all his goodness. Sometimes at school children will also learn about farming and about different fruit and vegetables.

Harvest has also become a time of year when we may raise money and awareness of food shortages and the needs of people in other countries. You could use this opportunity to engage your toddler group families in raising money for this year's Helping-Hand Appeal.



## WELCOME

### 'Harvest Welcome Song'

*Tune: 'London Bridge is falling down'*

Welcome all, it's harvest time, harvest time, harvest time,  
Welcome all, it's harvest time  
It's good to see you!

## BIBLE READING/THOUGHT

Talk about how Harvest is the time when we say a special thank you to God for all the good things he provides for us.

Possible Bible stories:

- \* Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-9; Mark 4:1-9; Luke 8:4-8,11-15)
- \* Feeding of the 5,000 (Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:33-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-14)
- \* The Big Catch of Fish (John 21:4-13)
- \* Elijah and the Widow (1 Kings 17:8-16)

Other stories:

- \* *The Little Red Hen* (traditional)

You can find many versions of this story in bookshops or on the internet. If appropriate, adapt the end of the story so the Little Red Hen is kind and shares the bread even though her friends didn't help her!

- \* *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* (Eric Carle)

Children love this story! There are lots of online resources available for use with this, eg colouring pages.

## THEME SONG

### 'Harvest Song'

*Tune: 'Frere Jacques'*

Seeds all scattered, seeds all scattered,  
In the field, in the field,  
Now the corn is growing, now the corn is growing,  
Tall and strong, tall and strong.

Combine harvester, combine harvester,  
Gathering grain, gathering grain,  
Grind it into flour, grind it into flour,  
Make some bread, make some bread.

Fruit and vegetables, fruit and vegetables,  
Ready to pick, ready to pick,  
Apples, pears and carrots, apples, pears and carrots,  
Yum, yum, yum, in my tum!

## PRAYER

Encourage the children to join in the response 'Thank you, God!'

For seeds that grow into fruit and vegetables,

*Thank you, God!*

For farmers that work hard to produce milk and crops,

*Thank you, God!*

For people who buy our food and get it ready,

*Thank you, God!*

For everything that you provide for us,

*Thank you, God!*

*Amen.*

Sing the blessing:

'Thank you for the world so sweet,  
Thank you for the food we eat.  
Thank you for the birds that sing,  
Thank you, God, for everything.'

Or sing the chorus 'All good gifts around us' from SASB 70 'We plough the fields, and scatter'

## ACTIVITY/GAMES

1. Fruit and Vegetable Printing:

- ▶ Dip various previously cut fruit and vegetables in paint and print on to paper.

2. Sowing Mustard and Cress:
  - ▶ Decorate a small pot with stickers.
  - ▶ Place some cotton wool balls in the pot.
  - ▶ Sprinkle with mustard and cress seeds.
  - ▶ Tell the children to remember to water them at home and watch them grow.

### 3. An Active Game

- ▶ Get the children to practise the following simple actions before playing:
 

Seeds	Roll up into a ball on the ground
Corn	Stand tall, stretching high
Combine harvester	Run around pretending to drive
Farmer	Stand with hands on hips and say 'Ooh, Aah!'
Scarecrow	Pull a scary face!

4. For other ideas see [www.pinterest.com/AFMYorkshire/harvest-messy-church-craft-ideas](https://www.pinterest.com/AFMYorkshire/harvest-messy-church-craft-ideas)

## INSTRUMENT SONGS

Select from the Song Bank

### 'Harvest Time'

*Tune: 'This Old Man'*

We can sing – praise to God,  
 Praise to God at Harvest time!  
 With a shake, bang, rattle, clash – everyone join in,  
 All God makes is wonderful.

We can sing – thanks to God,  
 Thanks to God at Harvest time!  
 With a shake, bang, rattle, clash – everyone join in,  
 All God makes is wonderful.

### ADDITIONAL SONGS:

- ♪ 'The Dingle Dangle Scarecrow'
- ♪ 'Old McDonald Had a Farm'
- ♪ SASB 3 'All things bright and beautiful'

## CLOSING

Closing song or prayer – select from resources

As the children leave, you could give them a piece of fruit or a bread roll.

You could help the children make their own sandwich or have some chopped-up fruit and vegetables to taste at snack time.