

HELPING HAND 2021 - FEEDING HOPE: ALL GENERATIONS SUPPORTING ALL GENERATIONS

YOUTH GROUP GUIDE

PREPARATION

- Read through this guide
- Look at some pictures of Zimbabwe (use your phone or computer, or look in books at the library)
- Read the Farmers' Stories found on our website
- Download the *Feeding Hope* comic found on our website

INTRODUCTION

You can use this to create your own customised introduction for your youth group session.

This session will enable your youth group to explore some of the challenges faced by farmers and their families in Zimbabwe. In reading the Farmers' Stories, you will discover the virtuous relationship between people and environment. The supporting resources will also reveal how The Salvation Army is helping to improve outcomes for families and communities, and what we might understand about God's character in creation from the Bible. Read through the stories in the resource so that you are familiar with the situations faced by the families in Zimbabwe.

WHAT IS FOOD SECURITY?

Food security, as defined by the United Nations' Committee on World Food Security, means that all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Through its food security programmes around the world, The Salvation Army provides training and confidence building so that individual families from one generation to another can thrive, whole communities can benefit, and The Salvation Army can grow through the planting of new corps. As you read the stories provided, you will see how this 'virtuous relationship' between people, environment and The Salvation Army works.

The title 'Feeding Hope' refers to two things:

1. When a farm's crop increases, the farmer and his/her family can have the confidence to know that the future they hope for is secure. The family will have enough food for themselves and enough to sell for an income. This means their children can be assured of an education and access to healthcare.
2. Families work the land together, and when the children can see their parents succeeding it gives them hope in choosing to support the family farm – all generations supporting all generations.

BIBLE REFERENCES

Mark 4:1-20 – The Parable of the Sower
Philippians 4:19
2 Corinthians 5:17

ACTIVITIES

- **Pizza Night:** the group can get together to make their own pizzas and decorate them with topping to look like a tree, plant or flower – something that grows. You can use this time together to talk about food security, the farmers' stories etc. This can also be a warm-up for a fundraising idea (see Fundraising Ideas below).
- **Grow plants:** the participants could either take them home to look after or they can be left at the corps to be managed (depends how often you meet). Explain how this relates to the farmers and their stories.
- **Read through the comics** that tell the stories of the farmers. You can have conversations around these and perhaps make your own comic strip about food security in your own home.

PRAYER TIME

End the session in prayer, praying for the farmers, the farms, the families of the farmers, the Feeding Hope campaign, or see our Prayer Diary for more prayer ideas.

FUNDRAISING SUGGESTIONS

- **Pizza Night:** following on from the pizza activity mentioned above, the group could make pizzas to sell at a pizza night for members of the corps, their family and friends. People can pre-book their pizza and pay upfront when booking. To fit the theme, pizzas could be decorated to look like plants, trees and flowers. To raise extra funds, you could have drinks for people to donate to buy. You can expand on this however you wish – date night packages, smaller pizzas for younger children etc – get creative. Don't forget to mention why you are fundraising!
- **Experiences:** you could think of experiences and packages that you could put together to 'sell' to raise funds, eg picnic packages, treat boxes etc.
- **Grow plants to sell:** following on from the 'Grow Plants' activity, you could sell these plants.
- **Host a games night:** you could charge per person and include drinks and nibbles for a donation. Don't forget to mention why you are fundraising!
- **Quiz night:** you could charge per person or per team and include drinks and nibbles for a donation. You can also include a round on Zimbabwe/farming/food security to link it altogether.
- **Sponsored litter picking:** focus on an area in your town that needs the most attention. You can link this to the farmers working a full day on the farm and manual labour – you can also link this to how the farmers have to prepare the land so that it is fertile, it can take in the seeds and help grow fantastic crops. Clearing the rubbish that is polluting the town is like a farmer ensuring that the land is ready for life.