



PRAYERS AND WORSHIP IDEAS

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

Remember to check out the Activity Bank, Teaching Ideas, and Toddler Church for more inspiration that could be adapted for your Harvest celebration.

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

>>PRAYERS

>>Written prayers

>>Responsive prayers

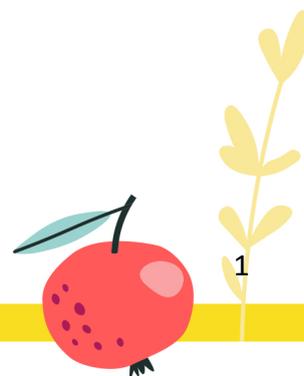
>>Creative prayers

>>WORSHIP

>>Worship activities

>>Songs and music suggestions

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WRITTEN PRAYERS

Thankfulness in difficult times

Father God,

As we come to give thanks to you this harvest time we want to start by acknowledging that you are good and your faithfulness and love is available to us every day.

In these days when trials seem greater, situations seem more difficult, and our world is in disarray, we come to you knowing that you are good and your goodness is displayed to us each day in different ways.

When things around us change, we thank you that you never change, that you are the same today as you have always been and that as we look to tomorrow we can trust in you because you never let us down.

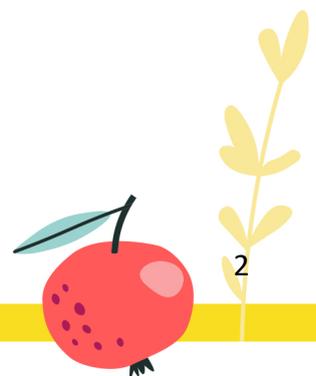
Our world is hurting and broken. We pray for those who are grieving, please comfort them in their time of loss, cover them with the peace of your presence, as only your Spirit can do.

We know that in whatever we face, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Thank you that you remind us throughout your Word that we never face life's battles alone, but you are always with us: whispering calm, speaking peace, bringing rest to our souls.

We thank you that you know our needs before we even ask, before we even come to you. You are aware of all that concerns us, and you have a plan. You hold the provision - you have the solution. You alone can move mountains to make a way for your children. We ask for your answer, in your timing, in your plan, to be given for every need that weighs our hearts down.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.





Thank you for your provision

Father Creator,

We come before you today giving thanks for your provision and goodness to us at this harvest time. We are grateful for your love that not only provides for our needs but also made a way for us to know you through Jesus Christ.

It is easy in difficult days to lose focus on what you have given us. We pray that today as we look to your creation, a wonderful gift, that we will learn to be thankful for our world. We thank you that you are a good father who has given us everything we need.

Forgive us for doubting you, for worrying and for trying so hard to work everything out on our own. Help us to trust you more, help us in our unbelief. Help us to help others and to share and care as you taught us, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

A prayer of repentance

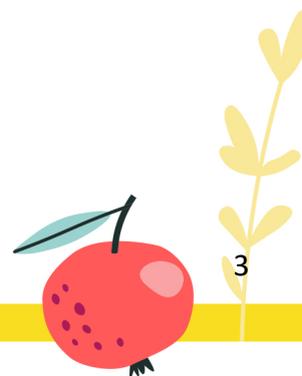
May the God of grace, who loves all that he has made and in Christ welcomes home all who come to him, heal our brokenness, forgive our sins and return us to a life of justice, mercy and simplicity, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A benediction

God, the source of all around us, earth and seas, and stars above,

Grant us grace that we may honour all you give in perfect love.





A prayer of thanks (1)

Father God,

Thank you for all you have created: the plants, the animals, the skies and the seas.

Thank you that everything you created is bright and beautiful.

Please help us to take better care of your creation.

Help us to make a difference in the world we live in.

We give you praise for all your blessings.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

A prayer of thanks (2)

Thank you, God, for the wonderful world you made.

Thank you for all people of the world.

Thank you for all animals and living creatures.

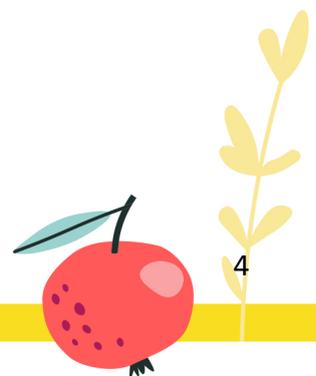
Thank you for all the plants and things we can eat.

Help us, Lord, to look after your world and everything in it.

Help us to share the things we have and to think about others who do not have as much as we do.

And bless us and our families with your love, today and always.

Amen.





A harvest prayer

Lord, you tell us that the harvest is plentiful.

When we hear those words, we pray that, rather than being overwhelmed by the challenge of evangelism, we will be encouraged that you have placed us in the harvest field, in our small corner, equipped with your Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen us.

Father, in our everyday lives may we be bright stars shining.

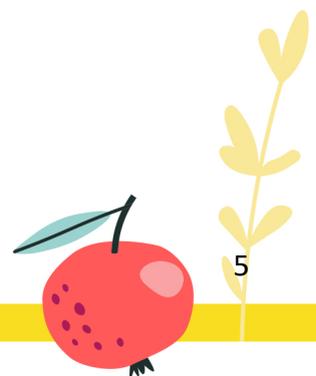
May we reflect your glory.

May we be agents of transformation in the places where we go.

May we play our part in discipling those we know, and those we will come to know, so that they continue to be transformed in the way that you are transforming each one of us.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus.

Amen.





RESPONSIVE PRAYERS

Give thanks for the good gifts

Leader: God of all creation,

All: We give thanks to you for your good gifts to us.

Leader: For the beauty of creation and its rich and varied fruits.

All: We give thanks to you for your good gifts to us.

Leader: For clean water and fresh air, for food and shelter, for animals and plants.

All: We give thanks to you for your good gifts to us.

Leader: Forgive us for the times when we have taken the earth's resources for granted.

All: We ask your forgiveness and seek your help to do better.

Leader: Forgive us for the times when we have wasted what you have given us.

All: We ask your forgiveness and seek your help to do better.

Leader: Transform our hearts and minds.

All: Renew our minds so that we see and act as you do.

Leader: Teach us to care and share.

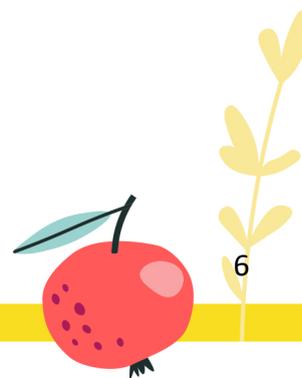
All: Renew our minds so that we see and act as you do.

Leader: Transform our actions and behaviours.

All: Renew our minds so that we see and act as you do.

Leader: Father, creator of all,

All: We give thanks, seek forgiveness, and ask for your renewal



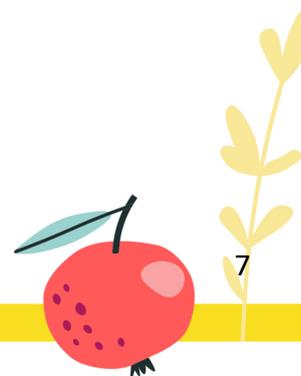


Father forgive us

- Leader:** Lord God, forgive us when we are selfish and greedy, when we are wasteful of all that you have given us.
- Women:** Sometimes we forget to say thank you.
- All:** Father, forgive us.
- Leader:** Lord God, we often choose to ignore those who are struggling and lack basic provisions.
- Men:** Sometimes we ignore the needs of others.
- All:** Father, forgive us.
- Leader:** Lord God, in our weakness we choose to live in a way that pleases us and not you.
- Children:** Sometimes we forget to live your way.
- All:** Father, forgive us. As we say we are sorry and ask that you forgive us and help us to live for you, in Jesus' name. Amen.

A responsive benediction

- Leader:** As we gathered to give thanks.
- All:** We give thanks for your provision.
- Leader:** As we worshipped in Spirit and truth.
- All:** We give thanks for your Word and empowerment.
- Leader:** As we leave this gathering filled with joy.
- All:** We give thanks for your Spirit who leaves with us, within us.
- Leader:** As we go into your world with your love in our hearts.
- All:** We give thanks for your invitation to share in your mission to the lost
- We thank you for your provision and presence, use us for your Kingdom's sake.
- Amen.





Look up and beyond

You will need:

- a PowerPoint presentation with images of supermarket pictures, farmers, and people working in food provision factories

Leader: Thank you God for your goodness that blesses us and the earth.

Children: You are generous, Lord!

All: Thank you, God!

Invite people to look around at the congregation and beyond the walls, or to bring their community to mind.

Share PowerPoint presentation.

Leader: Thank you God for the people who made this food and those who will share in it.

Children: You are generous.

All: Thank you, God!

Invite people to look down at the ground and the earth beneath and say the names of the street where they live.

Leader: Thank you God for this place, this church and for your faithful love over many generations.

Children: You are generous.

All: Thank you, God!

Call to worship

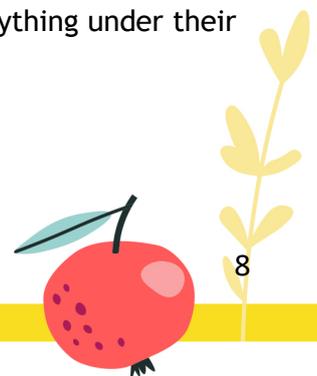
Leader: Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

All: You have set your glory in the heavens.

Leader: Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies to silence the foe and the avenger.

All: When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?

Leader: You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honour. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet.





All: All flocks and herds, and the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

Leader: Lord, our Lord,

All: How majestic is your name in all the earth!

A sensory prayer of praise

Leader: For the beauty of your creation.

All: We praise you Lord for sight (*point to your eyes*).

Leader: For the coolness of a mountain stream.

All: We praise you Lord for touch (*put your hands together*).

Leader: For the tunefulness of the birds of the sky.

All: We praise you Lord for hearing (*point to your ears*).

Leader: For the taste of fruit that we have grown.

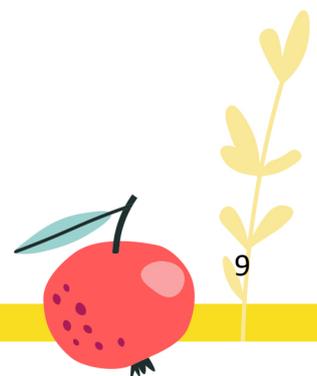
All: We praise you Lord for taste (*point to your mouth*).

Leader: For the sweet fragrance of flowers.

All: We praise you Lord for smell (*point to your nose*).

Leader: For all the good things you have created.

All: We give you all the praise.





CREATIVE PRAYER IDEAS

Harvest prayer stations

If applicable, allow people to move around the worship space using the prayer stations to give thanks for God's goodness but also focusing on different prayer needs within community. If not, prepare a PowerPoint presentation or visuals with images that represent each prayer topic.

- Map of the world - for every place where there is war and injustice
- Loaf of bread - for everyone who is struggling to find food or make ends meet
- First aid kit - for all who are unwell and for those who care
- Dancing shoes - for all who help us show joy in our lives
- Bible - for the church
- Mirror tiles or mirror - for ourselves

You can adapt this online by asking people to gather similar items at home, to hold as the group prays together.

Memorise

There are many Bible verses that talk about God's goodness. Invite people to memorise this verse from Psalm 23:6

'Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever'.

You may want to print out the words individually or create PowerPoint slides where each time different words are removed until the final screen is blank!

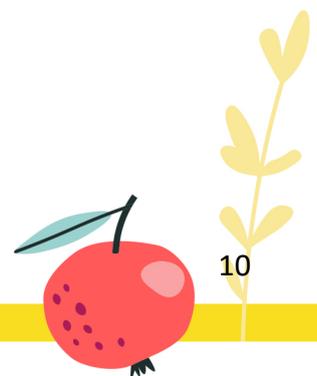
Prayer for creation

You will need:

- pieces of rubbish such as plastic bottles, crisp packets, cans, old newspapers, ripped plastic bags etc
- a big rubbish bin
- contemplative music

Spread the rubbish around. As you play the contemplative music, ask people to pick up a piece of rubbish and put it in the bin. As they do so, suggest that they use these simple words as their prayer, or make their own:

Lord, help me not to rubbish your world in any way. Amen.





Praise poster

You will need:

- paper
- coloured pens
- display board

Read Psalm 103 and ask people to identify the words or phrases that describe God's goodness. Give people paper and pens and ask them to write down their chosen statement from the passage about who God is. Display all the phrases on a board under the caption 'We can praise God because...'. Use these words to guide a time of prayer.

Prayer paper chain

You will need:

- paper strips
- pens
- sticky tape

Distribute paper strips and encourage people to write a word/sentence of gratitude and celebration to God. Connect the strips with sticky tape to make a prayer paper chain that you can hang across your meeting room. If you have a small group you might want to give each person two or three strips of paper or add to the chain week by week.

Prayer beads

You will need:

- cord or strong thread
- assorted beads
- rings to make key chains

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.

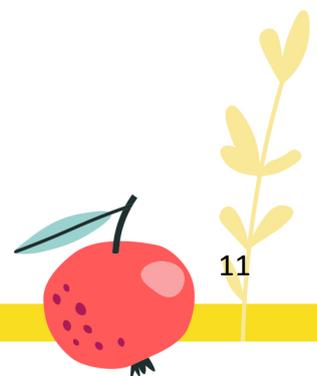
Talk about how we can tell the people we know about Jesus and invite them along. Using the beads, say a prayer for them.

Water

You will need:

- a glass of water to display, or if at all practically possible provide a glass for each person.

As you drink the water or look at the water displayed, pray for access to clean water and sanitation for everyone around the world. As you feel (or imagine) the refreshment of the cold water, pray that those who are working to address these issues may have an increased awareness of the refreshing power of the Holy Spirit.





Praying for my world

Ask different members of the congregation in advance if they will share a prayer from 'their world'. For example, ask a child to pray specifically for their school and friends, someone else to pray for their workplace, someone to pray for an activity that they are involved in at the corps, etc.

Summarise this prayer time by thanking God for all the different people, places and groups represented within the congregation. Thank God for the opportunities that this represents. Thank God for the funds that will be raised through the Harvest altar service for local mission, and pray for wisdom and guidance as to how best to use this financial offering.

Prayer template

Distribute copies of the following prayer template for people to use:

Father, I pray that today, as I go to* you will guide my thoughts and inspire my words and actions. I pray that I will be attentive to your promptings as I pray for*

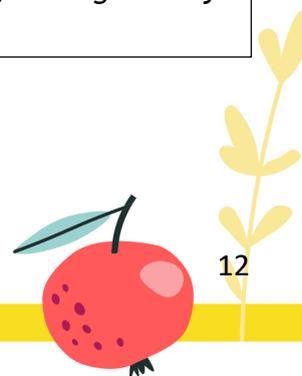
Today, I ask for an opportunity to pray specifically for*/ (or) a person that I meet during the course of the day.

Lord, you have provided me with one blessing after another. Today, I pray that I will be a blessing to*/ to those I meet

Father, today I will see*.
What should I pray for?
(Allow time for God to speak and guide your prayers)

Lord, today I pray that I will be especially sensitive to strangers that I meet. I ask that I will notice whether they seem anxious, or happy, or content, or lonely. Lord, guide my prayers for those I meet but do not know.

**Insert names or pray more generally*





Prayer map

You will need:

- a large map of the local area - or design your own
- lots of coloured dot stickers, but in two colours only

Give everyone the same coloured dot to stick on to a place on the map they go to regularly - school, work, nursery etc.

Pray for each person now represented on the map, that they will dare to share something about Jesus in the places where they go.

Then give everyone two or three more dots of a *different colour*, and ask them to think of the names of just two or three people that they could tell about Jesus this week. Ask them to try their best to do just that, and then invite them to stick these dots around the ones already on the map. You should end up with dots of two colours - representing each person and their harvest fields.

Pray for the people who might hear about Jesus this week, or who might get invited to the next messy church/event/service, that they will listen and respond.

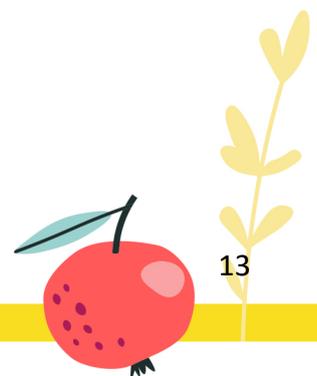
Global community

You will need:

- paper, pens and scissors for each person

Ask people to draw around their hand on a piece of paper and cut it out.

We are all part of a global community. We are required to reach out a hand to support and equip those who do not have the same material resources as we do. Pray for politicians and other decision-makers. Pray for those involved in the financial system. Ask God to show you a way that you can reach out, either by lobbying politicians or by direct action. Is there a lifestyle change you need to make - eg, commit to using Fairtrade goods where available?





Giving all we have

You will need:

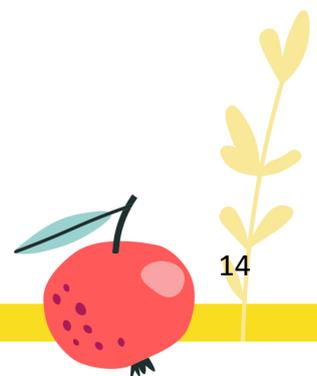
- card coin templates or circles cut out of brown paper
- pens

Write on one side of the coin something that you want to thank God for.

As Jesus watched the widow give her apparently small offering in the Temple (Mark 12:13-17) he teaches us that she gave all she had and there is so much value in her gift.

On the other side of the coin, write down something that you can do or give to make the world around you a brighter place.

Invite people to place their coin in a significant place (such as the Mercy Seat or altar table) to signify their commitment to God to do something beautiful with his help.





WORSHIP ACTIVITIES

Bunting

You will need:

- card/paper cut into bunting triangles with two holes at the top
- pens/pencils
- string or ribbon

Distribute the bunting triangles. Ask people to decorate them to highlight one example of God's goodness during the pandemic as an act of worship. Collect these and display them somewhere visible on your building as an act of witness to your community about the breadth and magnitude of God's goodness.

Mountain range

You will need:

- grid paper
- pens or pencils

Encourage people to think back over the highs and lows over the last few months and to plot these as if it were a graph. Then ask them to join the dots together, to create a 'mountain range' which will reflect their personal experience. Spend some time thanking God for the 'peaks',

as well as for his faithfulness during the harder times.

Once everyone has completed their mountain range, spend some time giving thanks to God for his goodness and the journey he has taken you on.

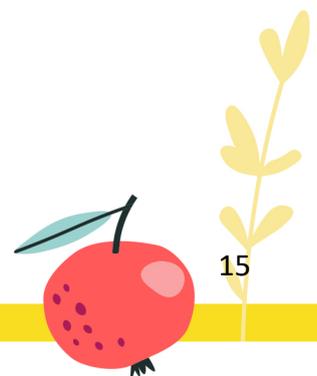
Stained glass/shadow picture window display

You will need:

- card/paper
- scissors or craft knife
- acetate and permanent marker pens (optional)
- tissue paper, PVA glue (optional)

Create a stencil/cut out image of a word/image or verse that reminds you of God's goodness.

Stick this on a window in a room in your home or church where the sun shines onto a prominent wall at a certain time of day - every time the sun is shining your message/image will be 'projected' onto the wall as a reminder of God's provision. Alternatively turn this into a 'stained glass' display by adding coloured tissue paper or using acetate and permanent markers.





Gratitude jar

You will need:

- jars
- strips of paper
- pens

Encourage people to write on strips of paper examples of God's provision during the recent months and to each store them in a jar. Thank God for all the ways his love and faithfulness has been evident and use these as a reminder during the times of life when this is less clear to you.

Bubble praise

You will need:

- bubble mixture bottles or a bubble machine

Ask people to blow bubbles (or use a bubble machine). As the bubbles float away and up, offer up words of praise for those who have been in your lockdown 'bubble' either physically or digitally, and the way that God's love has also surrounded you and them throughout the pandemic.

What a wonderful world

You will need:

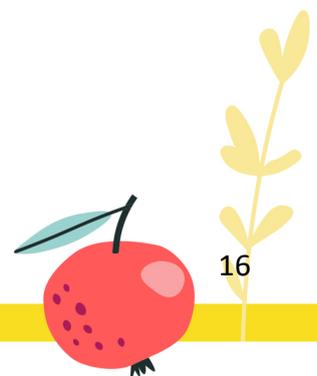
- A5 paper for everyone
- the song 'What a Wonderful World' recorded by Louis Armstrong

Give everyone an A5 sheet of paper and explain that they have just over two minutes (Armstrong's recording of 'What a wonderful world' is a fraction short of two-and-a-half minutes) to create something with the piece of paper that resembles God's creation or Harvest. For example, tear out a circle to represent the moon, or the shape of a tree, snail, banana etc.

Once the song has finished, pick out two or three and show them to the congregation. *These shapes didn't just happen - you made them.* State that what they have made points to our Creator and remind us that God has given us such a fantastic world to enjoy and care for.

prAise-Z

Ask the congregation to call out words that describe God, starting with 'a', then 'b', then 'c', and so on to 'z' (it gets tricky!).





Rap and rhyme time

By Major Georgina Symons

This can be read as a rhyme or as a rap, with everyone saying the 'chorus' (in italics). Teach everyone these two lines first:

*Jesus said: 'There's a lot to do,
I need some help - I am sending you!'*

The world was created -
earth, sky and sea,
Plants and animals, birds and trees.
'Who will look after them? Let me see...'
Then God created Adam and Eve.

*Jesus said: 'There's a lot to do,
I need some help - I am sending you!'*

As time went by, things began to
go wrong;
Instead of being nice, people didn't
get along.
There was war, there was hate;
things weren't fair;
They thought that God just didn't care.

*Jesus said: 'There's a lot to do,
I need some help - I am sending you!'*

Jesus was born to show us the way
To spread the news - that God
wanted to say
'I love you, I care, I really do,
But the ball's in your court - it's up to
you.'

*Jesus said: 'There's a lot to do,
I need some help - I am sending you!'*

Jesus needed some help to spread
the word,
To make sure everybody heard;
So he sent out people - seventy-two -
And said: 'This is what you must do...'

*Jesus said: 'There's a lot to do,
I need some help - I am sending you!'*

'Go into the towns and tell them the
news That God's Son is here and he loves
you; He wants you to follow him every
day; To get into Heaven, it's the only
way!'

*Jesus said: 'There's a lot to do,
I need some help - I am sending you!'*

Today's the same - wherever we go,
There are lots of people who do not know
That Jesus loves them and really cares;
He still needs people who are willing to
share.

*Jesus said: 'There's a lot to do,
I need some help - I am sending you!'*

So whoever you are, wherever you go,
Tell those people who do not know
That Jesus loves them and really cares.
Can you do that? Do you dare?

*Jesus said: 'There's a lot to do,
I need some help - I am sending you!'*





Play-dough praise!

You will need:

- Play-dough (enough for seven people)
- Cards printed each with one of the following words: world, flowers, Adam, Eve, snake, apple, leaves

This simple interactive reading provides an opportunity to explain how God's creation (our world) is spoilt by humanity's selfishness and greed. Before you read (perhaps during a song), ask for seven volunteers each to create a play-dough sculpture of one of the words printed on the cards. While you read the following, get each person to hold up their sculpture as their word is mentioned in the story.

Here's our creative version of Genesis!

In seven days God created the world and he saw that it was good. In this beautiful world was the Garden of Eden, a place full of beauty and peace. There were beautiful flowers and plants as far as the eye could see.

Into the garden God placed Adam, the first man, and Eve, the first woman. In the centre of the garden, God placed a special tree and made it clear to Adam and Eve that the fruit of this tree was out of bounds. One day a snake appeared before Eve and tempted her to take a

bite of the fruit of the special tree - a lovely juicy apple.

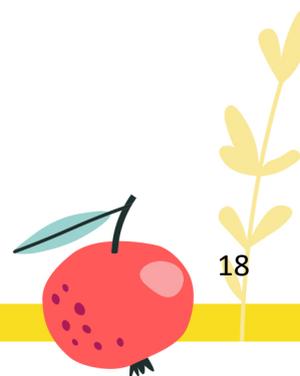
The apple gave Adam and Eve God's special knowledge of what was right and wrong, and they discovered that they could choose to do as they pleased rather than what pleased God. For the first time they felt ashamed and covered themselves in clothes made of leaves.

And so God's creation was spoilt by the wrong choices that Adam and Eve made, and the world has never been the same since.

Indescribable

Play the song 'Indescribable' by Laura Story and Jesse Reeves, recorded by Chris Tomlin.

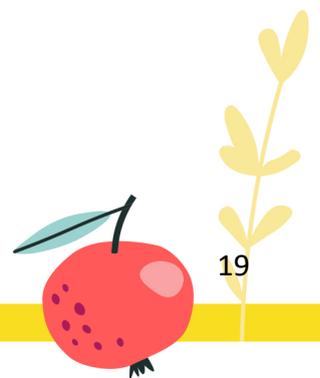
- Spend some time contemplating everything that God has created.
- Think about how fairly we share all of the resources and produce God has provided for us.
- Ask your group to consider how they would go about making things fair if they were in charge of the world. Ask them also to consider how they could start to make a change in their own lives to try and make things fairer.





Psalm 8 praise

Read out Psalm 8 and ask people to think of images of the beauty of creation described by the psalmist, or display a few pictures that reflect the words being read.

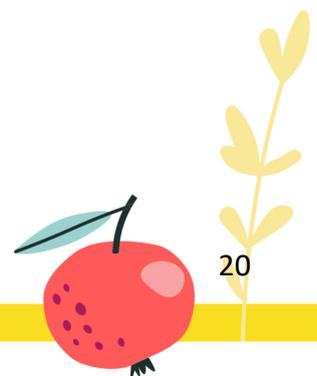




SONGS AND MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

Congregational songs

All creatures of our God and King	SASB 2
All Heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord	SASB 237
All things bright and beautiful	SASB 3
Beauty for brokenness	SASB 998
Come, ye thankful people, come	SASB 9
Fairest Lord Jesus	SASB 77
Far and near hear the call	SASB 920
For the beauty of the earth	SASB 14
Glory and honour to you we bring	Doug Horley, SoF 1785
God who touchest earth with beauty	SASB 320
Let us with a gladsome mind	SASB 42
Lord of all creation (God of Wonders)	Marc Byrd, Steve Hindalong, SoF 2957
Now thank we all our God	SASB 45
O Lord my God (How great thou art)	SASB 49
Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer	SASB 53
Praise him, you heavens	<i>Magnify</i> 52. SoF 1501
Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven	SASB 55
The Fruity Song (I am the apple of God's eye)	Jim Bailey, SoF 785
The splendour of the King (How great is our God)	SASB 64
The way it's gonna be	Doug Horley
This is my Father's world	SASB 66
We plough the fields, and scatter	SASB 70
You are shaped for serving God	Doug Horley





Singing company music

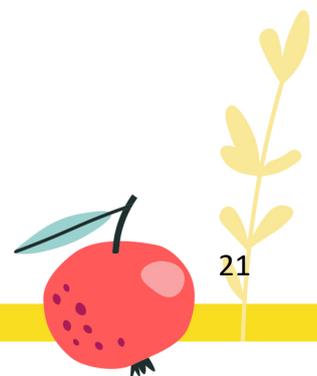
God cares for me (Joy Webb)	<i>Sing to the Lord Children's Voices Vol 3</i>
God's Horizon (William Hastings / David Catherwood)	<i>Sing to the Lord Children's Voices Vol 6</i>
I am me! (Leonard Ballantine)	<i>Sing to the Lord Children's Voices Vol 1</i>
Something beautiful for thee (Cheryl Yates / Richard Woodroffe)	<i>Sing to the Lord Children's Voices Vol15</i>
Song of creation (Howard Davies)	<i>Sing to the Lord Children's Voices Vol 7</i>
Thank God for everything (Stephen Pearson / Andrew Wicker)	<i>Sing to the Lord Children's Voices Vol10</i>
You are the one (Darren Bartlett)	<i>Sing to the Lord Children's Voices Vol 5</i>

Young people's band music

Harvest Gifts (Andrew Blyth)	<i>First Things First No 6</i>
Harvest Praises (Andrew Blyth)	<i>Unity Series No 205</i>
My God is so big (Nicholas Samuel)	<i>First Things First No 9</i>
Now thank we all our God (David Rowsell)	<i>Unity Series No 230</i>

Songster music

Beautiful Lord (Elizabeth Ashby / Andrew Maycock)	<i>Sing to the Lord Mixed Voices Vol 11 pt2</i>
He is greater (Kai Andersson)	<i>Sing to the Lord Mixed Voices Vol 15 pt3</i>
I will sing your praises (Psalm 9 adpt. Leonard Ballantine)	<i>Sing to the Lord Mixed Voices Vol 12 pt2</i>
The Lord of harvest (John Samuel / Keith Manners)	<i>Sing to the Lord Mixed Voices Vol 5 pt2</i>
There is a new song (arr. Trevor Davis)	<i>Sing to the Lord Mixed Voices Vol 16 pt2</i>





Senior band

Harvest Celebration (Noel Jones)
My Father's World (Andrew Blyth)
Prayer of thanksgiving (William Himes)

General Series No 1849
General Series No 2086
Triumph Series No 1000

Recordings

All things bright and beautiful (John Rutter)	International Staff Songsters - <i>Let the morning bring</i>
Even the mountains praise you (Claire Cloniger / Neal Joseph)	Three Sopranos - <i>This is the life!</i>
For the beauty of the earth (John Rutter)	International Staff Songsters - <i>Sing for joy</i>
In his time (Hanneke Jacobs)	Richard Phillips - <i>Inspirations</i>
Let the morning bring (Leonard Ballantine)	International Staff Songsters - <i>Let the morning bring</i>
Look at the world (John Rutter)	International Staff Songsters - <i>Freedom</i>
Peace (Kenneth Downie)	International Staff Band - <i>St Magnus</i>
Psalms 91 (Stuart Watson)	International Staff Band - <i>So Glad!</i>
The majesty and glory of your name (Tom Fettke)	Govan Citadel Songsters - <i>Alive</i>

