

All Age Service – Speaker resources 2016

Preparation:

- This resource has been designed without spaces for sung worship etc. It is a template to be used in discussion with the church leader, and can be adapted and broken up as required.
- If you choose Introductory Activity 1, you will need plastic ants and a packet of seeds.
- If you choose Introductory Activity 2, you will need a cake, two plates, some napkins and a knife to cut the cake up.

Introductory activity: Option 1

Before the service, hide the plastic ants in various places around the church so people can find them later. Also, make a pile of seeds at the front of the church clearly visible to the congregation. If hiding ants isn't an option in your church context, you could always fill a jar with seeds and sand, and hide the ants within this for people to dig into and find.

Explain to the congregation there are ants hidden in various places around the church. Ask for some volunteers to help find them. When someone finds one, ask them to bring it to the front and to put it on the pile of seeds. In return for their ants, give each volunteer a seed.

When all of the ants (or most of them if it's taking too long) have been found, ask one of the children to come to the front and to take one seed from the ant pile. Showing this to everyone, ask the child how they would feel if this were their Sunday lunch today.

Explain that in some countries around the world, people are so hungry they have to forage for seeds that ants have collected in their nests. Explain that, this morning, they will be learning about one of these places, as well as finding out what we can do to help.

Introductory activity: Option 2

Explain to the congregation you came out this morning without having any breakfast and now you are quite hungry. You picked up a nice cake on the way and thought you could have some now, just so your stomach won't rumble during the service.

Bring out the cake on a plate and show it to the congregation. Ask if anyone else would like a piece with you –hopefully there will be plenty of hands, particularly among the children. Begrudgingly offer to share the cake and ask one of the older children to come up and help you cut up the cake for everyone. Before you let the volunteer cut the cake, say you'll take a slice for yourself and then proceed to cut about a third of the cake and set it on another plate. Place that piece of cake in front of the child and pick up the remaining two-thirds of the cake as though it's a sandwich and proceed to eat it, while giving the child instructions on how many tiny pieces they'll need to slice their bit into.

This should all be quite funny. As you keep munching away, continue to comment on how very small everyone else's bit of cake is going to be –probably more like a crumb.

After a few moments, say you are now totally stuffed, but that you'll keep the remainder of your bit of cake for yourself later on. Thank your volunteer for helping, show their plate to the congregation, and tell them they can come and collect their crumb after the service.

Draw out the point that in the UK where we live, most of us have plenty to eat, even more than we need, whereas around the world there are places and people who do not have anywhere near

enough. Explain that this morning you will be learning about one of those places, as well as finding out what we can do to help.

Where in the world?

Where are the places in the world where people do not have enough to eat? One of those countries is called Chad. Does anyone have any ideas where that might be?

Look together on the world map *[show a ppt slide of world map]*. Find the UK and then find Chad. Can anyone guess how far away it is from us? It's around 3,000 miles away.

What is Chad like? It's very hot and dry, the opposite of the UK.

What are the people like? Well, let's meet some of them now.

Explain that you're going to show a video and afterwards there will be some questions, for all of the age groups in the congregation, so everyone needs to look and listen carefully.

Show the film.

Afterwards, have a series of questions to ask to draw out some key points. The questions should range from a very simple one younger children can answer, and one for the adults.

Q - What were Jumana and others eating when we visited them in their village that day?

A - Thin, watery soup.

Q - How many days does it take Jumana to weave a basket?

A - Five days.

Q- How many meals does one basket sold at market provide for her family?

A - Two meals.

Q - Who is helping Jumana and her family?

A - The local church.

Q - What made Yasmin, Jumana's daughter, happy that day?

A - The church provided them with food so Jumana could prepare a good meal for her family.

Teaching slot 1:

In the film we saw Yasmin *[show a ppt slide of Yasmin]*. Yasmin is Jumana's daughter and she has lots of things in common with children in this country. She has brothers and sisters. Put your hands up if you have brothers or sisters. Yasmin likes to play with her friends –does anyone here like to do that? And Yasmin helps her mum around the house. I wonder if we have any helpful young people here who help out at home? But Yasmin also cries sometimes, not just because someone has been mean to her or because she has fallen and hurt herself. Yasmin cries because she is hungry.

All of us cry with hunger when we are babies to let our parents know we need feeding. When we are a little older and can speak for ourselves, we ask our parents for food when we are hungry. When there's no food left in your house, what do you do? Go to the supermarket.

When Yasmin asks her mum for food, her mum has to say no –because they don't have any. Yasmin's family don't have supermarkets to shop in; they grow their own food to eat. In order for

the crops to grow they need rain, but in the last two years the rains have not come and so the crops have not been able to grow at all, and Yasmin's family have run out of food and are very hungry. Yasmin's mum sometimes digs in ants' nests for food seeds the ants have collected, but this doesn't provide much.

Why do we need to eat food? To help us grow strong and healthy. When we don't have enough to eat we can become weak and very sick. Sometimes Yasmin has no energy to play with her friends because she is so hungry. If she and her family don't get help then they could become very very unwell indeed.

I hope you'll agree this is a very serious problem. It's not just happening to Yasmin's family but to thousands of families just like hers.

So, what can we do to help?

Well, let's start by looking at a story in the Bible. I'm going to need some audience participation and a few people to do some acting for me.

I'll need Jesus, a few disciples, a small boy and the rest of you can be the crowd.

Bring people out for each of those roles.

Can anyone guess which Bible story we're going to read? The feeding of the 5,000.

The story is in all four gospels and this simple version is especially put together to allow your acting skills to shine. (As you read through the story, make sure each person is in some way acting out their part.)

Jesus had been with a large crowd of people all day, teaching them and healing the sick.

When it was evening, some of the disciples came to him and said, 'Send these people away, Jesus. None of them live here and they need to get food as they are very hungry.'

Jesus turned to his disciples and told them, 'You give them something to eat.'

The disciples were shocked! They looked out at the huge crowd, and then scratched their heads. How were they supposed to feed all of these people?

A little boy came along and offered the disciples his lunch. The disciples looked at what he had, but it wasn't very much.

So they turned to Jesus and said, 'How are we supposed to feed all of these people? We only have this boy's lunch of five loaves and two fish. That's not going to go very far!'

Jesus told the disciples to ask the people to sit in groups, and he took the food and blessed it. He then divided it among the disciples and they gave it to the people.

Everyone ate until they were absolutely full, and there were still 12 baskets of leftovers at the end.

Thank your participants and send them back to their seats.

Teaching slot 2:

In order for all of the hungry people in the story to be fed, the little boy had to be willing to share what he had. Imagine how different the story could have been if he'd decided to be selfish. But he took what was in his hands and offered it to Jesus, and something amazing happened.

We know there are people around the world, like Yasmin and her mum, Jumana, and neighbour Amina, who are hungry, and in order to help them we need to be willing to share what we have. I wonder how we might do that...

In the story of the feeding of the 5,000 we saw how Jesus had compassion on the crowd, took the small thing that was offered, the five loaves and two fish, blessed them, broke them and performed a miracle. A small gift given in faith can make a massive difference. Will we join with Jesus in the miracle of feeding the hungry today? Will we pray and search our hearts over what we can give?

Because if we do, we'd be joining with our church partner, who is working with families like Jumana's to teach them new farming methods and irrigation techniques that will eventually support the whole community to lift itself out of poverty. And Jumana, herself, despite her relentless hunger, works hard to *find any way she can* to lift herself and her family out of poverty. So she weaves baskets to sell in the market because she knows if she can sell a basket, even just one basket, she can buy enough food for two meals for her family.

I have one of these baskets with me here today, that was made by a woman in Chad.

Take the basket out and show the congregation.

Do you know what people store in these baskets when they're made?

Ask the congregation if they can guess.

Bread. Just like the baskets that were passed round in the story of the feeding of the 5,000, which ended up overflowing with bread even after the hungry crowds had eaten until they were satisfied.

Jumana has no bread to put in her basket. But she is using what is in her hands to help herself. Can we use what is in our hands to add to her efforts? What are our five loaves and two fish? Are we willing to offer them to Jesus to see what he will do?

As the church in this country, as God's hands and feet, we must act on behalf of those who are hungry, like Amina.

You will have been given a card as you came in (or you will have found a card on your seats today). Inside is a form for you to fill out to start giving regularly to Tearfund to help prevent hunger. Just like we saw in the video, your regular gift will mean we can reach children and families with life-saving support that helps prevent hunger. Just £10 a month is enough to provide a child like Yasmin, or a mother like Jumana, with two nutritious meals a day, so they can start to face the future. If you can't give £10 a month, don't worry, any amount given regularly will help and will make a significant difference. If you don't have your bank details with you, don't worry, please fill out the part that says, 'Yes I'd like to give but don't have my bank details with me' and tick this box [*point to box*] to

say you are happy for us to call you – don't forget to give us your phone number and email address so we can contact you to update you on where your money has gone.

So let's take this opportunity to fill these baskets, to fill these baskets on behalf of the hungry, with our prayers and support. We are going to take some time to do this, so you too can hold the basket and remember Jumana and Yasmin and, as you do, pray that as a church we will follow Jesus and give generously.

Pass around the basket with the montage of photos and the song playing. (3 minutes)