

Give Like Jesus – Speaker resources 2016

Preparation:

- Please pray God will use your talk to bless both the people who hear you and the hungry people of the world who we are trying to reach. Pray that Jesus will inspire and challenge those who hear you to commit to give regularly and generously to the poor through Tearfund.
- Follow the Attention, Empathy, Insight, Options, YOU structure to gain the greatest impact from your message. You are welcome to adapt all of the below to suit your own style.
- Please ask the church leader to introduce you and endorse the work of Tearfund during the service and before you speak.

Delivering the talk:

- Make sure all the congregation are given sign-up forms and pens as they come into church or that these are put on the pews/everyone's seats.
- Please make sure you have one basket from Chad, two if you are seeing more than 80 people. Keep the basket hidden until the right moment in the talk.
- Please note the film is shown during the talk not before – you will need to brief the AV people and give them a copy of your talk so they know when to show the film and the optional photo montage at the end of your talk.

Please arrange for the Bible passage to be read before you speak: the talk refers to John 6:5-14, Feeding the 5,000.

Talk outline:

Pray briefly over the congregation that God will speak and that nothing in you will stand in the way.

Attention:

Tell a story that in some way helps bridge our experience of food with the situation in Chad.

Suggested story: The Great British Bake Off or watching other food programmes.

Option 1: *The Great British Bake Off*

Who here watches *The Great British Bake Off*?

I have to admit I do. For those of you who don't watch it, it's a baking competition programme set in a beautiful marquee, in the summer, on the lawn of a stately home. It gives you a sense of lovely British niceness, cucumber sandwiches and tea drunk from bone china cups with your little finger raised. But, underneath all that seeming niceness is the steely determination of the contestants as they try, week after week, to outdo each other with their showstopper cakes – the most extraordinary extravaganzas of sponge and icing and cream, and fruit and flowers and fireworks. Or to out-knead each other with their bread making, under the critical eye of Paul Hollywood, the silver-haired, blue-eyed bread maestro of the programme. Or to perfect *their* interpretation of the few vague lines of a recipe given to them by the UK's premier cake baker and national treasure, Mary Berry. I particularly like the bit in the middle of the programme when they announce there is

five minutes of baking time left and chaos breaks loose, as people run to and fro, cakes collapse and icing is thrown about in a desperate attempt to get finished in time for the judging, which is always very tense. It's an entertaining programme and I often laugh and gasp my way through it in equal measure.

But the truth is, for us in the West, so much of our food is about entertainment, just like *The Great British Bake Off*, and we have the luxury of goods from all over the world in the aisles of our supermarkets. Bread, to the over-fed in the West, is something to be crafted into cornucopia horns and admired by judges, but bread, for the majority of the world's population, some 900 million people, one person in every nine, bread is something they can only dream about as they go to bed every night, hungry again.

Option 2: Other food programmes

Please use the one you watch and tell the story in a light-hearted way. Here's another version using Nigel Slater and Nigella Lawson.

I have to admit in our house we are fans of cooking programmes, but only cooking programmes done by those called Nigel or the female derivative of Nigel, Nigella. Nigel Slater and Nigella Lawson, if you've seen them, have a particularly luscious style in their cooking.

But the most entertaining aspect of their programmes is the absolute passion they have about food, and this comes across in the way they talk about their recipes, the way they handle the food, as if it were something special and precious, and the way the producers do misty-eyed shots of Nigel and Nigella, particularly Nigella when she's hanging around the fridge for the latest 'midnight feast', as she calls it. Both chefs celebrate their 'larder' or 'cupboard' ingredients, which they firmly believe we should all just have as regular staples in our own cupboards. Things like Harissa paste, caviar, and maple syrup – you'd mostly find just baked beans in my cupboards. And they cook up all sorts of exciting things with supposed leftovers and the addition of any number of these exotic store cupboard specials. Fabulously entertaining.

But the truth is, for us in the West, so much of our food is about entertainment, and we do have the luxury of goods from all over the world in the aisles of our supermarkets. Leftovers to, the over-fed in the West, are things that are either thrown away or cooked up with lashings of double cream into another feast, as inspired by our TV chefs. But leftovers for the majority of the world's population, some 900 million people, one person in every nine, leftovers are something they can only dream about as they go to bed every night, hungry again.

Empathy: Show the film and emphasise the problem

Following on from either Start above

How should we be living in a world where there is still this injustice? With one in nine of our world's population starving? And we all know it's children who are most vulnerable to the ravages of hunger. Children just like Yasmin – let's watch her family's story.

Watch the 3-minute film



Following Jesus where the need is greatest

It is estimated that in the Sahel region of Africa nearly 6 million children will suffer from acute malnutrition in 2016. One in five children living there, that's 6 million, won't make it to their fifth birthday. And it's not surprising when you see what they are eating... we've just seen that thin watery soup, once a day, made from a few grains collected from ants' nests. It's shocking and also unimaginable, that this family has had to resort to stealing from ants just to eat. That meagre bowlful of unappetising greyish liquid was all Amina had to feed a whole family, including her husband. It makes my heart break to think this is happening in our world right now.

Insight:

Based on John 6, Feeding of the 5,000 and 'Jesus is the bread of life.'

We believe in a God who came to give us life in abundance, to give us the promise of a hope and future, whose heart breaks with ours over the suffering of the hungry in our world. There is an old Chadian proverb that says 'Hungry people have no ears', meaning that those who are starving can only think of the next meal and where it's coming from. Jesus knew this, both from a physical and spiritual point of view, when he fed the 5,000 and when he described himself as the bread of life in John 6. In the story of the feeding of the 5,000 we see how Jesus had compassion on the crowd, asked the disciples what was in their hands to help, took the small thing that was offered, the five loaves and two fish, blessed them, broke them and performed a miracle. The disciples found, as we also can find, that 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 irrigation techniques and farming methods that will eventually support the whole community to lift itself out of poverty. And Jumana, despite her relentless hunger, places her hope in a God who feeds the hungry, and she prays and 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, one basket, she can buy enough food for two meals for their family.

It's a long and arduous job for Jumana making that one basket, which takes five days; involving gathering the sharp reeds, if she can find them; stripping them; leaving them to dry for several days in the sun and, at the same time, manipulating them so they soften; dyeing them if she has the money or energy to prepare dye; then painstakingly, very skilfully, weaving them reed by reed, row by row, to make the basket. I have one such basket here.

Take basket out and slowly describe.

And as I lift this basket to my face [smell the basket] I can smell the strong scent of the reeds it's made from. As I look inside I can see the dirt of the Sahel, the desert, embedded in twists of the reeds; and as I hold it in my hands I can feel the pain and hope of the woman who made it, *[hold it to yourself]* the anguish of watching her precious children wasting away before her very eyes from lack of food; and the hope that somehow this basket will sell, so she can feed them one last day... *pause*

And I feel overwhelmed by the sense of connection I have with my sister suffering in Africa, and I feel honoured and privileged to be holding such a precious thing, this basket, made by a starving woman in the hope of feeding her children...

Pause to look at the basket.

And do you know what the irony is? The irony is she wove it to be a bread basket. A bread basket when there *is* no bread....

But in John 6:35, Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry.”

As the church in this country, as God’s hands and feet, we must act on behalf of those who are hungry like Jumana. We must act on behalf of the 5,500 children who will die today for lack of food. That’s four children every minute. Will you help families like Jumana’s today? Will you fill this basket right now –not with bread, but with filled-out regular giving cards so we, as Tearfund, through our church partners all over the world, can reach hungry children like Yasmin with life-saving support, and families like Jumana’s with long-term training to release their God-given potential –that abundance of life?

You will have been given a card as you came in –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 which 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. Amen and thank you.

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

(6 mins of film and montage, the rest of the talk takes 12-13 minutes)