

# All Age Worship Resources: Harvest



## Gather

- **Opening Prayer:** Ask everyone to name something that they are thankful for from their resources bag or that they have brought with them. Discuss how often we take for granted the gifts from God that ease everyday life before giving thanks in an opening prayer
- **Game 'Cake, Soup or Salad':** Show everyone a range of fruit and vegetables or pictures of them. Ask people to indicate by raising their hand or standing whether they would eat that in a cake, soup or salad. The winning fruit or vegetable is the one that has had the most votes for all three categories. Talk about how versatile God's gifts to us are, and how we all have different preferences for how they are used
- **Quiz:** What will your seed grow into? See example on <https://laidbackgardener.blog/2020/01/22/quiz-name-that-seed/>

## Engage

*Lectionary readings will vary depending on which week this service is held. If you are following the 'Journey Through the Bible' themes, then check the relevant pages for ideas on engaging with the Bible story.*

- Galations 6:9 is a helpful way of linking thankfulness for the gifts God gives us with a call to respond
- Arthur Rank Centre ([arthurrankcentre.org.uk](http://arthurrankcentre.org.uk)) has produced biblical harvest resources on the theme '[thank you to our famers](#)'
- Ask your Open the Book Team to tell the Parable of the sower (Matthew 13:1-23)
- Encourage the whole congregation to read the script for '[Scarecrow's Stormy Day](#)' by Saltmine together, or ask some young people to make a video of it to show in the service

## Respond

- Interview somebody involved in food production and/or distribution and ask them what challenges they face in their working life.
- Plant some seeds—some thought might have to be given as to how you manage this with social distancing (see notes). Once the activity is done encourage reflection on what each element of the planting could represent in terms of God's gifts to us and our response
- Use the resources from '[Embrace the Middle East](#)' to consider how you can 'sow seeds of change' as a congregation

# Send

- **Hand Prayer:** Hold hands with palms up to thank God for all that he gives us. Hold hands as if clutching bags to say sorry for the when our greed and selfishness affects others. Open out fingers to show that God forgives and forgets. Move fingers as if sowing seeds to pray that God will help us to spread God's love and grace in our community. Put hands together to say Amen

## Prayer for Harvest 2020\*

Loving God, we give thanks for those who produce our food: for farmers and fishermen, factory and shop workers. We pray for those for whom this has been a difficult year: farmers who have battled the weather to grow food, delivery drives and shop workers who kept working despite the pandemic. Help us to value and support each other. In Jesus' name. Amen

\*from the Arthur Rank Centre ([arthurrankcentre.org.uk](http://arthurrankcentre.org.uk))

## Notes and ideas for bags

- The children's activity sheets from '[Embrace the Middle East](#)' contain a good variety of information and activities and could be used as discussion starters for thinking about how to respond
- Seed Planting— you could provide a small pot and a large seed in the bag and have tables around the church where households can take it in turns to fill their pots with soil. This could be done whilst some reflective worship music is playing. Alternatively provide a small container like an eggbox section or a yoghurt pot, some damp cotton wool or kitchen roll, and some cress seeds
- Colouring pages—[Parable of the sower](#), [harvest](#)
- [Harvest wordsearch](#)
- script for '[Scarecrow's Stormy Day](#)' by Saltmine
- Something to be thankful for—eg wrapped chocolate, small packet of biscuits, piece of fruit
- Pictures of seeds for the seed quiz

*In order to comply with government guidelines fill the bags with everything the household might need to engage with the service and quarantine for 72 hours beforehand. Encourage participants to take home non-reusable resources, but to place things like the bag and pens in a box by the door as they leave. These can be wiped, if necessary, and quarantined in time for their next use*