

Collective Worship resources
Theme: Harvest

Harvest – I wonder why we give harvest gifts. (These could be split over two acts of worship)			
Gather	Engage	Respond	Send
<p>Light the candle</p> <p>The heavens declare the glory of God. The skies display the works of his hands.</p>	<p>Watch this video clip as the children enter into worship. 'We plough the fields and scatter'</p> <p>What are the children doing? I wonder why? We are going to be thinking about why people give gifts of food at harvest time.</p> <p>They are celebrating harvest. This hymn is a traditional harvest hymn sung in churches. The chorus says: <i>All good gifts around us Are sent from heaven above Then thank the Lord, then thank the Lord For all his love.</i></p> <p>I wonder why the writer of this hymn chose these words? What might these words mean? I wonder why Christians say thank you at harvest time?</p> <p>Deuteronomy 24:19 <i>"When you gather your crops and fail to bring in some of the grain that you have cut, do not go back for it; it is to be left for the foreigners, orphans, and widows, so that the LORD your God will bless you in everything you do.</i></p> <p>I wonder what you think God meant when he gave this instruction to the Israelites. Think, pair, share. In Bible times, there were not the big shops and convenience foods we have now. People had to grow all their own foods to prepare the food they would eat, so farming was very important and an image that everyone understood. We still have farming now, but not all of us are involved in it. So, I wonder what this verse might mean to those of us who are not farmers? I wonder what we could do in response to this verse?</p>	<p>Sing: Giver of life God gives us so much, so we should give back to him by helping others. What we give is a sign of our gratitude.</p> <p><i>Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap.</i> Luke 6:38</p> <p>Image of this verse</p> <p>I wonder why Jesus taught his followers this message? "Giving, not getting, is the way" Luke 38:6 (The Message)</p> <p>Is it really better to give than receive? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zcrulov45bl Watch this video together. 'Happiness is helping others'</p> <p>Allow the children to reflect quietly after watching this video. <i>I wonder what you can do to bring happiness to people? Does it always need to be money? I wonder what difference the bags of food families receive when they visit the food bank has on their lives?</i></p>	<p>I wonder what you could give or do to make people happier?</p> <p>I wonder what you might bring in to show how thankful you are for all you have?</p> <p>Go in peace, We go in peace Go in joy We go in joy Go in love We go in love Amen.</p>

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	<p>Thinking about this verse, I wonder why Christians celebrate Harvest by giving gifts of food?</p> <p>God wants us to share what we have and give it to others, who don't have enough. What could we do to help?</p> <p>Around our country there hundreds of food banks have been set up to support those families who are struggling to buy all the food they need. http://canterburyfoodbank.org/ (update with one more local to your school)</p> <p>Canterbury food bank supports many families each week and relies on donations to fill the shelves.</p> <p>Show the children the list of things the foodbank needs. Do you think you could do something to help these families? I wonder what you could bring in?</p>	<p>Pray together.</p> <p>Thank you God for the work of the food banks around our country. Bless those who volunteer in them and support the families who visit it. Protect and care for all those who are struggling to provide enough food for their families. Thank you God that you have blessed us with so much, help us to be generous with all we have. Amen.</p>	
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Harvest Festival – Saying thank you to God.			
Gather	Engage	Respond	Send
<p>Light the candle</p> <p>The heavens declare the glory of God.</p> <p>The skies display the works of his hands.</p>	<p>Sing: Creator God by Nick and Becky Drake.</p> <p>Create a display at the front of the worship space with all the harvest gifts that have been brought in.</p> <p>Get the children to look at what has been given. Praise and thank the children. When we work together our gifts get multiplied, each gift is important and when put with the gifts of others it can do so much more.</p> <p>God says:</p> <p><i>Celebrate the Harvest Festival, to honour the LORD your God, by bringing</i></p>	<p>Sing: Harvest Samba</p> <p>What do we say thank you to God at harvest time?</p> <p>Invite children from different year groups to read prayers out they have written.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you God for all he has given. • Thank God for the weather that helps the crops to grow. • Thank you God for the farmers and for all 	<p>I wonder what you could do to remember to say thank you for the food you have been given and eaten?</p> <p>Creator God , for daily bread and all who work to bring</p>

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	<p><i>him a freewill offering in proportion to the blessing he has given you. ¹¹ Be joyful in the LORD's presence, together with your children, your servants, and the Levites, foreigners, orphans, and widows who live in your towns. Do this at the one place of worship. ¹² Be sure that you obey these commands; do not forget that you were slaves in Egypt. Deuteronomy 16:10-17</i></p> <p>Early in the Bible God's people were celebrating harvest and all that God had given to them and done for them. Think about these verses, how does God want his people to celebrate harvest? Think, pair, share. (celebrate, share what he has given you, be joyful with everyone in the community, don't forget to remember all that God has done.)</p> <p>I wonder why God wants us to say thank you and remember all his has done? Think, pair, share. <i>Recap on previous acts of worship about why Christians give back to God.</i></p> <p>Where does our food come from? Use some of the food items on display. I wonder how many people have been involved in getting that food to us? We are so fortunate to have all these people who make our food.</p>	<p>those who make and transport our food for us.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for those who are struggling to feed their families. <p>Give the children an opportunity to reflect on all that God has given. This video could be used. Or allow some quiet time encouraging the children to look at the food they brought it and consider the impact it will have on the families who will receive it.</p>	<p>the harvest home We bring our thanks today. Amen</p>
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