

## **Assembly**

### **What can I bring?**

#### **Title: What can I bring?**

**Main Point:** Everyone of us has something useful to share with others

**Bible Passage:** John 6v35

#### **Resources You Will Need To Get:**

Pile of tins and/or fruit & vegetables

Loaf of bread

Large globe (optional)

For the 'Drawing Together' Activity

An easel

Some paper

Blu-tack (to stick paper on to the easel)

A blunt drawing pencil

A sharpener

A set of colouring pencils

*Instructions are in blue italics*

*Use text in red if using accompanying PowerPoint presentation*

### **Ready To Use**

*Before you start you may want to create a 'feature' of globe, some fruit/vegetables, cans/tins and a loaf of bread as a focal point*

Welcome to our assembly. This morning we are going to think about 'Harvest' and bread and a country in Africa called Tanzania.

**Slide 1** Here is a map of the world and here is Tanzania.

Now – what on earth does a loaf of bread have to do with a country in Africa called Tanzania? Well – let me read you a verse from the bible. It's found in the New Testament in the gospel of John, which is one of the accounts of Jesus' life in the bible. Some of you might have heard of the story of a little boy **Slide 2** who shares his lunch of 5 loaves and 2 fish and how Jesus uses that small lunch to feed a crowd of over 5000 people. Well, just after that amazing miracle had taken place, Jesus' close friends, his disciples were chatting to Jesus about bread and Jesus said this

**Slide 3** *Read John 6v35*

'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.'

I wonder what that might mean?

*You may want to repeat the verse and leave a short moment for reflection*

'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.'

To help us understand what Jesus was saying, let's think about some Sisters who're living in Tanzania. Now, these sisters are not sisters who have the same mum or dad, but women who have come to share their lives together and to learn how to share

their lives with other people too. **Slide 4** They're called the 'Sisters of Saint Mary' and in the village where they live, they're involved in lots of projects which help their local community. **Slide 5** Here they are helping to weigh and measure children and **Slide 6** they are also involved in training local people in farming and looking after animals. **Slide 7**

Last Harvest time, they had a think about what they had that they could share with people around them. Just in the same way as we bring fruit and vegetables, or tins and cans to share with people at Harvest time, these women wanted to practise sharing too, so do you know what they decided to bring?

*Could invite guesses/give clues at this point* Well, you could get milk from it, it had 4 legs and probably was noisier than any of our normal harvest gifts! A dairy cow!

**Slide 8**

I wonder what you might think if someone turned up at your door with a present of a cow? In the village where these Sisters live in Tanzania a cow is a brilliant present.

Why do you think that might be?

*Milk will be an obvious answer but try to encourage children to think more widely about what else a cow might produce...*

Manure – or cow 'poo' can be turned into heat for cooking or lighting using a very clever thing called a 'biogas unit'.

Baby cows – can be reared and then handed on to another family to provide them with the same things – milk and a means of getting energy to provide heat and light.

So what's all this got to do with bread? Well, just as the little boy I mentioned earlier shared his bread with that huge crowd of people, we should share what we have with others too. The Sisters in the story wanted to share God's love with the people near them. As Christians, they believe that knowing Jesus and believing in Him is a bit like having the best food and drink that you could ever imagine. It is truly filling and satisfying. And when you feel full up, you can share God's love with other people in practical ways.

### **Drawing together activity**

Now – I would like to do something kind to share with \*\*\*\* (name the Headteacher or another teacher present.) I thought that maybe we could draw him/her a picture to help them remember our assembly – could anyone help me? I need about 4 volunteers who like drawing and I'd like a picture of a cow and some milk and anything else you'd like to include to make it look beautiful!

*Pick volunteers and hand one resource to each one showing them to the rest of the assembly as you do so*

*Paper/blu-tack/sharpener/blunt drawing pencil/colouring pencils*

*Stand the 5 children at the front slightly apart from each other and then approach each in turn and ask them to draw you a picture. Depending on your relationship and familiarity with the school and these pupils you might be able to have a bit of fun with this 'Where's this picture then?' peering at a blank piece of paper etc. 'I thought you*

*said you could draw?’ Obviously no interaction between volunteers should be allowed at this point.*

*Turn back to the rest of the children and ask for help*

So – can anyone help me? How can we get our picture drawn?

*Responses will hopefully include ideas of working together and sharing resources*

*Turn back to volunteers and invite them to have a go at working together – leave them to work together quietly, perhaps under supervision of another primed adult.*

You see my helpers up here needed to share what they had with each other to be able to draw the picture. At Harvest time it’s a good time to remember that when we each bring something that we have and then it’s joined with lots of other things, we can achieve quite a lot!

### **Reflection/Prayer:**

At this time of Harvest lets stop and think about all the good things we have. Think about your favourite foods and drinks. Think about our shops and supermarkets with shelves brimming with things we can eat and enjoy. Let’s think of the huge variety of colour and size and taste from our amazing world.

Jesus said ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.’

Christians believe that knowing God provides true satisfaction and fullness and that out of that they can share God’s love with other people in practical ways.

Let’s think of some ways in which we can give to others this Harvest time. Perhaps you could buy a friend some sweets with your pocket money to cheer them up. Perhaps you could give some time to help with practical tasks in your home.

I’m going to pray to thank God for this time of year and to ask for his help in showing love to others. If you want to join in you can say “Amen” at the end, which means you agree with the prayer.

Lord God,

Thank you that for Harvest time. Thank you for the amazing world you have made for us and for all the beautiful things we can enjoy. Please help us to share what we have with others and to know the joy of giving.

Amen

### **Song suggestions:**

Anything from ‘A Combined Harvest’ © Out of the Ark Music

‘Harvest Samba’ from Songs for Every Occasion – Mark & Helen Johnson, © Out of the Ark Music [www.outoftheark.co.uk](http://www.outoftheark.co.uk)

‘Taste and See’ or ‘Variety Variety’ (John Hardwick – 34 Songs for all Occasions) © Daybreak Music [www.johnhardwick.org.uk](http://www.johnhardwick.org.uk)

‘All Things Bright and Beautiful’ - Kidsource Kevin Mayhew Ltd, 1999

## **Headings & Bullets**

### **Introduction**

- Harvest/bread/Tanzania (**Slide 1 worldmap/Tanzania**)
  - Introduce Bible verse in context following feeding of 5000 and little boy sharing his lunch (**Slide 2**) – John 6v35 (**Slide 3 - bread**)
- ‘Then Jesus declared, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty’

### **Story of Sisters of St Mary**

- Who are they?
  - **Slide 4 – sisters**
  - **Slide 5 – weighing children**
  - **Slide 6 – driving tractor – training in farming projects**
  - **Slide 7 – looking after animals**
- 
- How they shared at Harvest time – buying a cow (**Slide 8 - cow**)
  - discuss what a cow might bring – milk/manure/baby cows

### **Linking back to bread**

- Little boy shared his bread – we should share too
- Sisters wanted to share God’s love
- they believe knowing Jesus/believing in Him is like having best food and drink – truly filling and satisfying
- when you feel full up, you can share God’s love practically

### **Drawing together activity**

- Introduce activity – purpose to draw picture to remember assembly to share with someone
- Choose 5 volunteers who like/are good at drawing – give out resources
- Challenge them each to draw a picture
- Draw in help from other children in suggesting how they can work together
- Conclude – children needed each other. When we each bring something we can achieve much more together

### **Reflection/Prayer:**

- Think about good things; food, drinks etc. variety, colour, size, taste

Jesus said ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty’

- knowing God provides true satisfaction and fullness
- out of that they can share God’s love with other people in practical ways.
- think of ways we can give to others – buying sweets for a friend/helping practically at home

I’m going to pray to thank God for this time of year and to ask for his help in showing love to others. If you want to join in you can say “Amen” at the end which means you agree with the prayer.

Lord God

Thank you that for Harvest time. Thank you for the amazing world you have made for us and for all the beautiful things we can enjoy. Please help us to share what we have with others and to know the joy of giving.

Amen

## **OTHER IDEAS**

### **Create the atmosphere**

- Make a display of harvest fruit and vegetables at the front of the hall.
- Play some Tanzanian music as the children are coming in

### **Opening Activities**

*Ideas for alternatives ways to introduce the assembly, time and context permitting*

### **Eat around the world**

Introduce foods from different countries and encourage volunteers to try new things. This could lead into a discussion about which foods fill us up and which leave us hungry (Link with healthy eating topics)

Lead on to discussion on what things we can do (being kind/sharing etc.) which make us feel 'full-up' in a different way

### **Bread quiz**

Bring in different types of bread and see if children can identify from taste/texture/smell etc.

### **Respond Later**

*Ideas for activities to follow up assembly of if assembly is used in a smaller context*

### **Puzzle it**

Jigsaw puzzle – give children one or two pieces of a 24 or 36 piece puzzle and see if they can collaborate together to complete it

### **Messy models**

Mix breadcrumbs with pva glue to make a kind of dough which you can then use for modelling. Children could model something they could give this Harvest time. Models will harden in 2-3 days and can then be painted with acrylic paints or permanent markers.

### **Bread cut-out pictures**

Using sliced white bread, children could use cutters to cut shapes to then make Harvest pictures