

Feeding 5000

Leader's Guide



www.heifer.org



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Introduction:

The goal of Feeding 5000 is to help churches - through transformational Christian education activities - help struggling families around the world become self reliant. Through the interplay between scripture, experiential learning and knowledge about Heifer, participants will deepen their understanding of God's call to reach out to the "least of these." They will discover fun and meaningful ways to respond to that call through fund raising for Heifer, as well as other ways to engage ending hunger and poverty.

How does the Workshop Rotation Model (WRM) work as a Heifer International curriculum?

Concept:

This Heifer curriculum is experienced in a series of focused one-hour workshops. The participants move from one workshop to another over several weeks, learning about the many aspects the Christian call to action and about Heifer. The teachers stay in the same workshop, teaching the same lesson to the different groups that come through each week. A typical rotation in a WRM Sunday School is four weeks and might look like this:

	Workshop 1 Storytelling	Workshop 2 Art	Workshop 3 Make Your Own Video	Workshop 4 Science
Week 1	1 st	2 nd	3 rd /4 th	5 th /6 th
Week 2	2 nd	3 rd /4 th	5 th /6 th	1 st
Week 3	3 rd /4 th	5 th /6 th	1 st	2 nd
Week 4	5 th /6 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd /4 th

All teachers and all students participate in all workshops.

The WRM is educationally founded on the concept of multiple intelligences. Howard Gardner's work revealed that people have eight different intelligences, some stronger than others.

- Verbal-Linguistic
- Mathematical-Logical
- Spatial
- Musical-Rhythmic
- Kinesthetic
- Interpersonal
- Intrapersonal
- Naturalist

A WRM curriculum appeals to all of the intelligences, opening many doors for a lesson to enter the hearts of the participants. To teach through only one intelligence, i.e. verbal-linguistic (the use of words) limits the education of those who learn primarily through movement or visuals or music or nature. Everyone has different gifts to use to help humankind become whole.

The WRM is talent-based. The opportunity to teach is for a limited time and is focused on one workshop. Invitations to teach are made by approaching people based on their talent. For example, the Storytelling workshop makes drip candles; ponder if someone in the congregation makes candles and invite him or her to teach. In the Cooking workshop, the class makes gingerbread arks; who in the congregation makes gingerbread houses? The Science workshop gets into organic gardening; is there an organic gardener in the congregation?

Shepherds are an integral part of a WRM program. They are in charge of one group and know the children by name. They move the children from the gathering time to the workshop and serve as the second adult in the

classroom. At the end of each workshop, they can help the group weave together the information they are learning from workshop to workshop.

Look at the workshop overviews on page 3. Just as Heifer has a diversity of animals to suit indigenous environments, so this curriculum offers 10 workshops to suit the needs of every congregation. These overviews provide scripture, a connection to Heifer and suggestions about what talent is needed in the workshop.

This curriculum is much like the living loan of Heifer's strategy of Passing on the Gift. Teachers use their talents to pass on knowledge and an active faith. The potential is for the whole congregation to become energized about developing a relationship with Heifer.

Workshop Overviews – What is the scripture and focus and primary activity of each workshop?

Workshop	Scripture	Overview	Talent
Art	Feeding of the 5000 John 6:14	Learn about how fish have been the subject in miracles, Christian art, the church and Heifer. Make a fish banner or mobile using the Japanese printing process of <i>gyotaku</i> .	Printmaker Fisherman Some who have visited the Roman catacombs
Cooking	Noah's Ark Genesis 6:5 – 9:17	Learn about the animals that Heifer provides and make a gingerbread ark.	Baker of gingerbread houses
Drama	Ezekiel Ezekiel 37:1-14	Just as Ezekiel envisioned the renewal of spirit in the people of Israel, so Heifer renews hope for self-sufficiency throughout the world. Enact a drama using the African-American spiritual, "Dry Bones."	Drama Director Costume maker Special effects creator Owner of pet rabbit
Geography	The Lord's Prayer Matthew 6:9-25, Luke 11:1-4	Review several maps and learn how maps affect our global view. Focus on how the resources of the Earth are unevenly distributed and how Heifer is working to eliminate world hunger and poverty.	Geographer Missionary Someone who can say the Lord's Prayer in another language
Make Your Own Video	The Samaritan Woman at the Well John 4:1-42	The Samaritan Woman and Sharada from Nepal tell their stories of transformation and living water. Highlight the WiLD program. Make video ads for the various commodities Heifer offers.	Drama director Someone comfortable with videotaping
Movement/Games	The Great Commandment Matthew 23:34-40 Mark 12:28-34 Luke 10:25-28	Who is my neighbor? Using balloon games, learn about how Heifer focuses on community and neighbor supporting neighbor.	PE teacher or recreation leader

Photography	Psalms 70:5	Learn how the story of Beatrice's Goat is a reflection of Heifer Cornerstones. Create a silhouette slideshow of "Beatrice's Goat."	Photographer Someone who owns a goat
Puppetry	The Incarnation John 1:1, 14 Luke 2:1-7	Hear the story of St. Francis of Assisi and how he developed the crèche as a witness to the birth of the Christ Child. Enact a puppet show of the Christmas carol, "The Friendly Beasts," adapted to highlight the range of animals that Heifer uses as living loans.	Puppet director Owner of a crèche collection
Science	The Great Commandment Matthew 23:34-40 Mark 12:28-34 Luke 10:25-28	Do science experiments to learn about being good ecological neighbors. Learn how Heifer trains people in sustainable agriculture practices including organic gardening.	Owner of a pet rabbit
Storytelling	Paul's Conversion Acts 9	Hear the storyteller, Dan West, testify to how his faith led him to found Heifer. Create drip candles to remember the diversity of Heifer commodities and an awareness of God's presence.	Candle maker

What venues can use this resource?

The basic set of 10 workshop lessons lend themselves to being shuffled into a variety of venues.

A Workshop Rotation Model Sunday School (WRM)

Drop this rotation into your program. Choose among ten different workshops and offer the ones that best suit the needs of your congregation and the talent pool you can tap.

Traditional Sunday School

Drop in this rotation model as a change of pace from being in one class with the same teacher all year.

Mid-Week Program

With 10 different workshops, this can be a full quarter of material for a mid-week program. Fall, winter, spring and summer—it offers the opportunity to focus on Heifer for an extended period of time.

All-Church Event (Half Day)

Consider a church event open to the entire congregation. A simple meal and a rotation through three workshops are the prelude launching the fundraiser.

Church Camp Retreat

This is a great family weekend retreat. Be immersed in Heifer with gathering times, workshops and dramas. Launch the *Fill the Ark* program or conduct the *Heifer Challenge* program.



Vacation Bible School

A Vacation Bible School can use this curriculum in combination with running the *Heifer Challenge* or *Fill the Ark* programs.

Each of these venues has its own Planning Guide to serve as an organizing tool.

And each fundraising program has its own Leader's Guide. These are found at: www.heifer.org/congregation

What age groups can use this material?

- **Pre-School – Kindergarten**

There is a pre-school component to this curriculum. These children are not part of the rotation, as many of them prefer the security of the same room and same teacher. They will learn about Heifer in ways that plant the seed of solid awareness.

- **1st – 5th Grades**

Grade schoolers will find this to be fun, interactive and enlightening as they learn about Christian service through Bible study, engaging activities and Heifer.

- **Tweens and Youth**

Tweens and youth are working on forging their identity. That's a perfect time to explore the call to act on their faith. A great opportunity is awaiting them.

- **Adults**

Adults learn with as many intelligences as do children and will appreciate learning about the call to serve and about Heifer by participating in fun workshops.

- **Intergenerational**

When people of all ages learn something new together, the opportunities for the generations to pass their faith onto each other are profound. As people have their 'ah-hah' moments, they are sharing in a way that enlightens the whole group.

How are the Heifer fundraisers incorporated into the Venue?

By combining both curriculum and a fundraising program, it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. In learning about Heifer, the congregation is energized and empowered to become involved.

Both *Fill the Ark* and *The Living Gift Market* are well-established fundraisers that Heifer offers. Make your choice based on where you think your congregation will volunteer to invest their own time, talent and resources. Consider the challenge of the *Gift Ark*, raising \$5,000 to purchase a whole menagerie of animals. Heifer Challenge is a brand new program that combines daring

Fill the Ark

The *Fill the Ark* program raises Heifer funds by distributing and collecting ark banks and calendars. These encourage daily awareness of world poverty and Heifer's efforts to enable people to become self-reliant.

Four weeks after distributing the arks and calendars, set aside some time during worship to collect the arks and celebrate the generosity of the church. Arrange it so that families with children can attend worship together and bring their arks to the altar. Display the ark that was created during the gathering time that portrays the Heifer Cornerstones and animals.

Fill the Ark is a very manageable project and needs one organizer who:

- orders materials directly from Heifer International and manages advertising;
- takes charge of the arks and calendars: distribution, collection, counting the contributions
- reporting the total and getting the check sent off to Heifer.

A *Fill the Ark* Leader's Guide is available with suggestions for how to launch the program and worship ideas. (Online at: www.heifer.org/congregation). Order the arks and the calendars (one per family) by phone at (800) 422-0474. The sample kit for all three items is RF3006000.

Heifer Challenge

For decades, Heifer has received photos of congregation leaders and members across the country kissing pigs, cows and other furry critters. Some have even shaved their heads as a fundraiser for Heifer, proving that people are willing to take a challenge to raise money to help a struggling family. So the organization created Heifer Challenge, and so all congregations can get in on the action.

Heifer Challenge is a fun, rewarding way to for youth groups to lead by example by matching challenges with bold people on behalf of Heifer! The Heifer Challenge Guide leads the congregation or group through the steps of creating this unique fundraiser. The guide includes instructions, a Challenge Master List, a return envelope and information on how to get publicity for your group's efforts. The timing of Heifer Challenge is flexible and would work with most venues of Feeding 5000.

A free Heifer Challenge Leader's Guide is online at www.heifer.org/challenge. Or order by phone at (800) 422-0474. The item number is RPC042010.

Living Gift Market

The Living Gift Market sets up a marketplace with booths that "sells" food- and income-producing animals like goats, bees, chicks and heifers. The booths are decorated creatively and are often interactive. Pairing this fundraiser with the educational workshops provides a biblical foundation and appreciation of Heifer International.

This program requires planning because advance time is needed to get the booths created. Perhaps the children create the booths during Sunday School or the midweek program. Perhaps the booths are created by families, small group ministries, youth groups, Sunday School classes, young adults—anyone who would be willing to create one that focuses on the attributes of one Heifer commodity. The more booths the merrier.

The Living Gift Market needs one organizer to oversee advertising, soliciting booth hosts and coordinating with the education program.

Download a free Living Gift Market Leader's Guide online at: www.heifer.org/congregation. Or call to order: (800) 422-0474. The item number is RLP005000.

Suggestions for organizing a booth:

1. What are the assets of the animal/commodity assigned to the booth?
2. What posters can be made and with what information?
3. How can it be decorated?
4. How can it be interactive?
5. Can a live animal be brought in? How about animal by-products on display?
6. Does someone want to dress up as that commodity and move among the crowd?

Booth ideas:

Commodity	Cost	Booth Ideas
Heifer	\$500	Sell "Black Cow" root beer floats. Find a local dairy or farmer who could talk about the dairy farming.
Chickens	\$20	Place 200 jellybean eggs in a glass jar and ask people to guess the number. That is the same number of eggs that a high-quality hen lays in one year. Stick a feather (from a feather duster) in a straw hat for every dollar you raise. Find a source for local eggs and sell them.
Bees	\$30	Ask a local beekeeper to bring in an empty hive and talk about beekeeping. Offer tastes of local honey. The Storytelling workshop is making candles – perhaps these could be sold.
Pigs	\$120	Display a collection of piggy banks. Offer a hog-calling contest. Offer tastes of locally-made pork sausage.
Trees	\$60	Create a tree. Fill the tree with donated leaves with the goal to collect for at least one tree. Display samples of various woods. Offer tastes of nuts and fruits that are grown on trees. Make a pinecone bird feeder with pinecones, peanut butter and birdseed.
Water Buffalo	\$250	Offer tastes of wild rice, making the connection between rice, the beast of burden and Heifer's WiLD program for women. Attach a wagon filled with bricks to a large tricycle – stage a contest for how fast the rider can pull the wagon to the finish line.
Goat	\$120	Offer tastes of goat milk cheese (like feta). The Photography workshop is making a slideshow of "Beatrice's Goat" – let the children narrate the story at the booth.
Rabbits	\$60	Offer tastes of rabbit food – carrots, celery, lettuce. Stage a long jump contest. Bring in rabbit by-products: rabbit feet charms, rabbit fur, rabbit coat.
Fish	\$20	Display a small aquarium. Invite a fisherman to talk about fishing. Decorate the booth with the gyotaku fish that are made in the Art Workshop.
Sheep	\$120	Display samples of wool to touch. Offer tastes of sheep milk cheese. Dress a child as a shepherd.

Worship Celebration:

Whether collecting arks or announcing the total raised at the Living Gift Market, this is a time to celebrate during worship. Here is a sample of how that might look:

Opening Prayer: *Lord, as we hear your word, we respond to your call to love our neighbors as ourselves. Please open our hearts to recognize the needs of our neighbors, whether they are next door, in the next town, state, nation or hemisphere. Help us to participate in making this world a reflection of your image of love and sustenance.*

Scripture: The Great Commandment
Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Moment for Heifer Demonstration:

Use the Movement and Games Workshop Option 2: Heifer Circle of Support to demonstrate how Heifer empowers neighbors to support each other, working in balance with the local community. Ribbons are attached to a hula-hoop, highlighting the issues faced by poor farmers and the kinds of support provided by Heifer. One person is the farmer and stands in the middle of the hula hoop while eight others hold the ribbons in such a way as to offer support.

Celebrate the generosity of the congregation by:

- Asking everyone who has an ark to bring it forward to the altar.
- Announcing the amount raised at the Living Gift Market.

Is there something for Gathering Times?

Church programs are full of times when we gather as a whole group to prepare us for what we are going to learn. These prepare the group for the workshops and the fundraising, which go hand-in-hand.

In this curriculum, the Gathering Times are about 15 minutes and are designed to make a connection between Heifer's Cornerstones for Just and Sustainable Development, scripture and the animals in Heifer's menagerie. These Cornerstones are the values that guide Heifer's decisions. The group builds an ark showing the Cornerstones along the planks of the ark and the animals on deck. A set of 12 Cornerstone/scripture cards and a set of animal cards can be found in the "Workshop Rotation Model" planning guide.

Consider the options of the ark:

1. Create an ark on a bulletin board
2. Create a free-standing wood ark
3. In the Workshop Rotation Model are visual aids. There is a set of 12 Cornerstone/scripture cards and a set of animal cards.

4. Each venue has its own set of Gathering Time Leader Sheets to guide the leader in associating a Heifer cornerstone with scripture and highlighting a Heifer animal. As the discussion unfolds, place a cornerstone card on a plank of the ark and an animal card on the deck. In the end, the ark will be a visual reminder of Heifer Cornerstones and animals.

Build the Ark		
Cornerstone	Scripture	Animal
Passing on the Gift	Genesis 9:16 God's covenant with Noah	Heifer
Sustainability and Self Reliance	Genesis 41: 47-49, 56-57 Joseph, abundance and famine	Chickens
Improved Animal Management	Genesis 6:18-22 Noah and the animals	Bees
Sharing and Caring	Genesis 45:9-11 Joseph shares his abundance	Pigs
Improving the Environment	Psalms 8:3-9 Dominion over creation	Rabbits
Gender and Family Focus	Leviticus 19:9-10; Ruth 2:2 Gleaning	Water Buffalo
Training and Education	Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child	Goat
Spirituality	Psalms 63 My soul thirsts for you, O Lord	Trees
Full Participation	Matthew 14:13-21 Feeding of the 5000	Fish
Nutrition	I Samuel 28:22 Eat, that you may have strength to go on your way.	Sheep
Accountability	Ezra 6:2 A record	Llamas
Genuine Need and Justice	Micah 6:8 What does the Lord require of you...	Guinea Pigs

Closing Song:

Our suggestion for this song is Mi Chacra (Argentinean Folk Song) with the following verses:

... my little cow goes like this, "moo, moo"
 ... my little chicken goes like this, "peep, peep"
 ... my little bee goes like this, "buzz, buzz"
 ...my little pig goes like this, "oink, oink"
 ...my little rabbit goes like this, "hop, hop"
my little buffalo goes like this, "bellow, bellow"
 ...my little goat goes like this, "munch, munch"
 ...my little tree goes like this, "swish, swish"
 ...my little fish goes like this, "glub, glub"
 ...my little sheep goes like this, "bah, bah"

Begin the first week by teaching the song and the cow verse. Each week add verses always singing the verses from the prior weeks.

Enhancements:

Think about the pockets of time in your program where you might want to include some of the following:

Related books:

Wood, Douglas and Cheng-Khee Chee. *Old Turtle*. Duluth:Pfeifer-Hamilton Publishers, 1992.

This story provides wonderful insights into Creation and how God's desire is that we are good stewards of the Earth and one another. This can focus on Heifer Cornerstone: Improving the Environment.

Gregorowski, Christopher. *Fly, Eagle, Fly! An African Tale*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2000.

This book makes a valuable connection between chickens and how we can be born into a new life if given the opportunity. This story can focus on the Heifer Cornerstone: Sustainability and Self Reliance.

Spier, Peter. *Noah's Ark*. New York: Doubleday, 1977.

This classic tale is purely visual and illustrates the chores of maintaining the ark for forty days and forty nights. It's a perfect book for pondering the scope of animal management, a Heifer Cornerstone.

Brumbeau, Jeff and Gail de Marcken. *The Quiltmaker's Gift*. New York: Orchard Books, 2001.

This story illustrates the joy of a giving heart. It is a great example of Heifer's Cornerstone: Sharing and Caring.

Silverstein, Shel. *The Giving Tree*. New York: Harper Collins, 1964.

The selflessness of the giving tree is a parallel to God's grace and makes a good connection to the focus Heifer commodity of this session: trees. It illustrates Heifer Cornerstone of Spirituality.

Dr. Suess. *The Lorax* New York: Random House, 1971.

This story demonstrates what can happen when the environment is not respected. Despite the environmental destruction, this story holds a message of hope. This illustrates Heifer's Cornerstone of Improving the Environment.

Demi. *The Empty Pot*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1990.

This story is about a young girl who feels like she only has an empty pot to present to the emperor but finds that her integrity gives her an inheritance. This is a parable for our relationship with God and is a good illustration of Heifer's Cornerstone of Accountability.

Lionni, Leo. *Swimmy*. New York: Knopf, 1990.

This classic tale connects well with the Heifer Cornerstone of Full Participation. Swimmy works with a school of fish to organize them for their common well-being.

McBrier, Page. *Beatrice's Goat*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2004.

This is a beautifully illustrated true story about Beatrice, her family in Uganda and how Heifer impacted her life. This is the story of Heifer's Cornerstone of Passing on the Gift.

Brown, Margaret Wise. *Home for a Bunny*. New York: Big Little Golden Book, 2003.

This little bunny has quite an adventure while journeying in his attempt to find a home.

Flack, Margorie. *The Story about Ping*. New York: Penguin Putnam, 1933.

This book illustrates life on the Yangtze River from the point of view of Ping, a duck.

Amazing Math: Every Gathering Time has an Amazing Math challenge that offers a sense of scale as to how much a particular animal can produce for the host family.

Heifer	If the cow named Buyinza (God is able) in Uganda gives an average of seven gallons of milk a day for nine months (273 days), how much milk does Anna get? How much in eight years (2,184 milking days?) Answers: 1,911 gallons; 15,288 gallons.
Chickens	One Heifer egg produces one hen that can lay around 400 eggs during her lifetime; half of the gss (200) will be cocks and half, hens. If the 200 hens each lay 400 eggs in their lifetime (80,000), and half are given to adults, how many eggs are there to provide hungry children with nutritious protein food? Answer: 40,000
Bees	A bee needs to take nectar from two million flowers to make one pound of honey. If a bee visits 100 flowers per trip, how many trips does one bee need to make to produce one pound of honey? Answer: 20,000
Pigs	If a sow produces 16 pigs a year and all reach market weight of 200 pounds, how many pounds of meat does she produce? Answer: Assuming all parts of the pig are eaten, 3,200 pounds.
Trees	Apples harvested from an average tree can fill 20 boxes that weigh 42 pounds each. How many pounds is that? (840 pounds) Each apple has 5 seed pockets. Each seed can grow into a tree. Cut up an apple and count the seeds. How many “trees” are in the apple? If each tree grew 100 apples a year, how many apples could grow just from the seeds of one apple? “A seed hidden in the heart of an apple is an orchard invisible .” ~ A Welsh proverb
Water Buffalo	Nah Beh has two acres of land from which he used to get 5,000 kilograms of rice per year. With the help of his Heifer water buffalo, he can now harvest three times as much rice per acre than before. If he keeps half for his family to eat, how much will he have to sell? Answer: 7,500 kilograms
Goats	If Reena’s Heifer goat in India produces four quarts of milk a day, for 250 days of the year, how much milk will she have to supply her family and a baby goat and to sell in one year? Hint: 4 quarts = 1 gallon. Answer: One ton ... that’s 250-gallon jugs of milk.
Rabbits	If a project partner in Sichuan, China, received a trio of Heifer rabbits – a buck and two does – and the two does each produced litters of eight kits four times a year, how many offspring would there be in 10 years? Answer: 640. (Heifer provided rabbits to 10 families in Sichuan in 1983 and more than 2,000 families have been helped as a result.)
Fish	Ni’tu in Zaire stocked his pond with 10 pounds of young Heifer tilapia. The fish grew three pounds a week. How many pounds of fish did he have when he harvested them after 24 weeks? Answer: 82 pounds



Heifer Resources:

Beatrice's Goat

Ending Hunger: An Introduction to Heifer International

Fill the Ark Leader's Guide

The Gift: A World Solution to Hunger and Poverty

Gift Ark Leader's Guide

Graphics of Animals

Heifer Challenge Leader's Guide

Heifer International: Our Work and Organization 2008

Heifer Model: Cornerstones Values-Based Approach

Living Market Planning Guide

Heifer Videos

- Pass on the Gift
- 12 Stones
- Dan West: Peacemaker

The Heifer International website has an abundance of information that can enhance the curriculum.

www.heifer.org

Congregational resources can be found at **www.heifer.org/congregation**

Appendix One: Heifer Commodities

Example of Information

Dairy cows - \$500

- Cows are wonderful additions to farmer's lives. They provide milk for added nutrition for the family as well as providing a source of income from milk, cheese, butter and yogurt that the farmer can sell.

Llamas - \$150

- Llamas have been domesticated for almost 6,000 years. They work in harmony with the environment. Llamas' feet are gentle on the soil, and they don't eat plants down to their roots, so they can be grazed in areas that other animals would destroy. They are valuable for their ability to carry heavy loads and for their fleece, which is used to make fabric and rope. Their droppings fertilize the soil.

Ducks - \$20

- Ducks are delightful creatures—good for both people and the environment. Ducks add protein to a project partner's diet from eating eggs, money in their pockets from selling eggs and ducks, and better crops in the fields, as ducks remove weeds and bugs and add fertilizer.

Chickens – \$20/flock

- Chickens are “eggstra” special living gifts from Heifer. They are easy to care for and adapt to many different kinds of climates. They lay eggs that can be sold or hatched. Chicks grow to adults in only six months and can lay eggs themselves. Eggs provide protein and are also a source of income to farmers.

Pigs - \$120

- Oink, oink becomes the sound of joy to families who receive a pig from Heifer. Pigs grow quickly and are often ready for the market in only six months. In that time they eat vegetable scraps and grow from three-pound newborn piglet to nearly 200 pounds. Because pigs have up to 20 offspring a year farmers are able to pass on the gift with ease. Many families find that their income doubles when they receive a pig from Heifer.

Rabbits - \$60/trio

- What animal takes only a small amount of room and produces high-protein, low-fat meat? Rabbits! Heifer always gives one buck and two doe rabbits and since rabbits reproduce quickly there are always lots of rabbits that can be passed on and sold to help the farmer beyond their own needs. Rabbits not only give food but their fur and hides can be an additional source of income. Their manure is used to enrich the soil or even used to help algae grow in fishponds.

Water buffalo - \$250

- Although they are very big, water buffalos become part of the farmer's family in many places in Asia. Their big strong body is perfect for plowing across fields in places where a tractor could never go. The water buffalo doesn't get a rest when the harvest is ready. They are used to carry produce to market. In India the water buffalo provides milk as well as muscle.



Sheep - \$120

- Sheep have been domesticated twice as long as llamas, 12,000 years. Sheep are grazing animals and they can be hard on the environment but Heifer provides training for the farmers so they learn how to care for the sheep and the land together. Sheep provide wool and meat to farmers. They also have two or three lambs a year that can be used for the pass on gift and for sale to other farmers.

Bees - \$30

- Beehives require almost no space and, once established, are inexpensive to maintain. As bees search for nectar, they pollinate plants. Placed strategically, beehives can as much as double some fruit and vegetable yields. In this way, a beehive can be a boost to a whole village.

Goats - \$120

- Goats cost less to care for than a cow and live well in places that other animals don't, making them a great living gift from Heifer. Many goats are zero-grazed which means they stay in pens and the farmer brings them their food. This way their sharp hooves don't destroy the ground. Goats provide milk that is used for the family and for sale in the form of milk, cheese and yogurt.

Fish - \$20

- Fish provide an important source of protein to people around the world. Heifer farmers raise fish in fresh water ponds, which often have rabbit or chicken pens above them. The droppings from the animals help the algae grow and the fish feed on the algae: animals helping animals helping people and respecting the environment.

STUDY *Feeding 5,000:*
A faith-based educational program



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Feeding 5000

All Church Event (Half Day)



www.heifer.org

Planning Guide

All Church Heifer Event (Half Day)

Launch a Heifer fundraiser within the context of an all-church, intergenerational education event.

This includes:

- A gathering time to learn about the Heifer Cornerstones
- Experiential workshops that appeal to people of all ages, making connections between the Bible, their faith and Heifer
- A fundraiser – choose between the ***Fill the Ark*** program and a ***Living Gift Market***

This event will last between 3 ¼ to 4 hours and works well on a Saturday morning, Sunday after church or school holiday.

Refer to the Resource Kit for these details:

- How this is a Workshop Rotation Model curriculum
- Workshop overviews with scripture reference
- Fundraising ideas: Fill the Ark and The Living Gift Market
- Enhancements: Books, Amazing Math, Gathering Times

Use this planning guide to help organize your program:

- Step 1: Choose a fundraiser
 - *Fill the Ark*
 - *Living Gift Market*
- Step 2: Prepare the workshops
- Step 3: Prepare for the gathering time
- Step 4: Launch the special Heifer event
 - Opening worship and Heifer Cornerstones
 - Workshops
 - Fundraiser

This is a big event. One of Heifer's Cornerstones is full participation. Make sure to invite plenty of people to be a part of this, whether being in charge of the fundraiser, creating a ***Living Gift Market*** booth, leading the gathering, leading a workshop or doing promotion. When the congregation feels ownership, it will respond.

Step 1: Choose a fundraiser

Both of these are well-established fundraisers that Heifer offers. Make your choice based on where you think your congregation will volunteer to invest their own time, talent and resources.

Fill the Ark

Distribute the arks and calendars at this all-church event. Four weeks later, set aside some time during worship to collect the arks and celebrate the generosity of the church. Arrange it so that families with children can attend worship together even for the first part so they can bring their arks to the altar. Display the ark that was created during the gathering time that portrays the Heifer Cornerstones and animals.

A Leader's Guide is available with suggestions for how to launch the program and worship ideas. Order the arks and the calendars (one per family) by phone at (800) 422-0474. The sample kit for all three items is RFX006.

Living Gift Market

This is a great holiday fundraising program. Arrange in advance for various booths to be made by families, small group ministries, youth groups, Sunday School classes, young adults—anyone who would be willing to create one that focuses on the attributes of one Heifer commodity.

On the day of the event, the gathering time connects Heifer's Cornerstones with their biblical foundation. The group then moves into the various workshops, experiencing the scope of Heifer's mission and successes. The event culminates with the *Living Gift Market* where everyone can "buy" particular animals.

Make some kind of graph or measuring tool for tracking the amount of money raised.

There is an excellent Leader's Guide for the *Living Gift Market*. Call Heifer at (800) 422-0474.

Step 2: Prepare the Workshops

The half hour gathering time focuses on building an ark using Heifer's Cornerstones for Just and Sustainable Development. After that, groups are organized and sent to various workshops. Each workshop lasts 45 minutes. The participants rotate through three workshops with a 5-minute passing period between each one. That's 2 ½ hours.

Example:

Gathering Time: 1 p.m.

Workshops: 1:30 – 4 p.m.

Workshop	Teacher	Room	1:30-2:15 p.m.	2:20-3:05 p.m.	3:10-3:55 p.m.
Art			Group A	Group B	Group C
Storytelling			Group B	Group C	Group A
Movement/Games			Group C	Group A	Group B

Launch the Fundraiser: 4 p.m.

Organize the workshops:

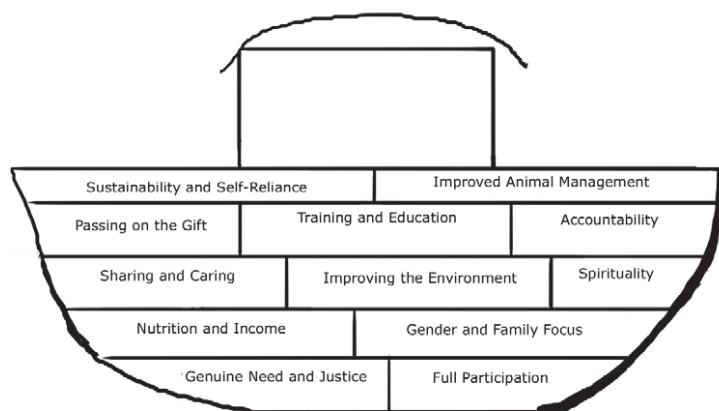
1. How many will you run?
 - a. What is the size of the whole group you expect?
 - b. What is the number of people you want in a workshop at one time?
 - c. Divide the number of people/workshop into the expected number and that is how many workshops are needed.
2. Which workshops will you run?

Look at the list of all 10 workshops in the Resource Kit.

 - a. Which ones appeal to you?
 - b. Which combination would deliver a comprehensive understanding of Heifer?
 - c. Who has a particular talent that will enhance the lesson?
 - d. In what space will each workshop occur?
3. Invite people to be workshop leaders.
4. Create a chart similar to the one above, filling in the blanks.
5. Arrange for supplies listed in the lessons.
6. Print schedules of the rotation and ask one adult in each group to be the shepherd, knowing where to go for the next workshop.

Step 3: Prepare for the Gathering Time: *Build the Ark*

The first half-hour of the event is gathering time. This is when all participants gather together and learn about Heifer Cornerstones for Just and Sustainable Development. These are the values upon which all decisions are made at Heifer regarding organizations and farmer groups. Building an ark will portray these Cornerstones. Each Cornerstone is associated with a scripture and is placed on the planks of the ark. All of the various animals and commodities that Heifer offers are placed on the deck of the ark. More details are in the Resource Kit.



Refer to the Resource Kit for Enhancements:

- Related illustrated books
- Amazing Math
- Heifer Resources
- A theme song

Add an invocation, joys and concerns and a prayer. This gathering time is what links the group together and encourages participation in *Fill the Ark* or *The Living Gift Market*.

Checklist:

Task	Who's in Charge?
Fundraiser	
Workshop Leaders	
Gathering Time Leader	
Promotion	

Step 4: Launch the special Heifer event

Gathering time: Build the Ark and Heifer Cornerstones

Workshops: Divide into groups and rotate through the three workshops.

Fundraiser:

- *Fill the Ark:*

Distribute the calendars and arks

Promote the date they will be collected

- *Living Gift Market*

Invite the participants into the marketplace

Track the amount that is being raised

Celebrate

STUDY *Feeding 5,000:*
A faith-based educational program



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Feeding 5000

Church Camp Retreat



www.heifer.org

Planning Guide

Church Camp Retreat

This program is a retreat that is inviting to all ages. It's full of gathering times, devotions, workshops, dramatic presentations, a reflection corner and fellowship. Over a night, a full day and a morning, the group will learn about Heifer International, a connection to scripture and a call to participate. The Fill the Ark Program will be launched with the celebration of the return of the ark banks occurring in worship four weeks later.

Refer to the Resource Kit for these details:

- How this is a Workshop Rotation Model curriculum
- Workshop overviews with scripture reference
- Fundraising ideas: Fill the Ark and The Living Gift Market
- Enhancements: Books, Amazing Math, Gathering Times

Use this planning guide to help organize your retreat.

Step 1: Review the Schedule

Step 2: Prepare for the Fundraiser, *Fill the Ark*

Step 3: Prepare for the Workshops

Step 4: Prepare for the Gathering Times

Step 5: Prepare for the Fellowship

STEP 1: REVIEW THE SCHEDULE

An overview of the schedule:

Day 1: Opening Night

- 7–9 p.m. Opening Night
- Evening Devotions
 - Storytelling: Dan West
 - “Build an Ark” and Heifer International
 - Candle making

9 p.m. Fellowship

Optional: some people may want to work on the Drama or Puppetry shows available in the curriculum and then perform them the next night.

Day 2:

8:30 a.m. Morning Devotions
Beatrice’s Goat

9 a.m.–Noon Workshops

Workshop	9-9:45 AM	10-10:45 AM	11-11:45 AM
Art	Group A	Group B	Group C
Photography	C	A	B
Movement/Games	B	C	A

Noon–2 p.m. Lunch and Quiet Time

2–5 p.m. Workshops

Workshop	2-2:45 PM.	3-3:45 PM.	4-4:45 PM.
Make Your Own Video	Group A	Group B	Group C
Photography	C	A	B
Movement/Games	B	C	A

Day 3: Closing Morning

Morning Devotions

Receive Heifer Ark banks and calendars

Celebrate the return of the ark banks full of change in four weeks in worship

STEP 2: PREPARE FOR THE FUNDRAISER, *FILL THE ARK*.

Refer to the Resource Kit for information about the *Fill the Ark* fundraiser

Order and ark banks and calendars in advance

STEP 3: PREPARE FOR THE WORKSHOPS

The two workshop schedules are:

Workshop	9-9:45 a.m.	10-10:45 a.m.	11-11:45 a.m.
Art	Group A	Group B	Group C
Photography	C	A	B
Movement/Games	B	C	A

In the Art Workshop, you might want to create the gytaku prints onto placements or table runners, which can be used for the remaining meals.

In the Photography Workshop, each class will work on the silhouettes for 1/3 of the *Beatrice's Goat* story. This slideshow can be shown on the evening of Day 2 or during morning devotions on Day 3. It is not necessary for this to be a “polished” presentation.

Workshop	2-2:45 p.m.	3-3:45 p.m.	4-4:45 p.m.
Make Your Own Video	Group A	Group B	Group C
Photography	C	A	B
Geography	B	C	A

The “commercials” made in the Make Your Own Video Workshop can be shown on the evening of Day 2 or during morning devotions on Day 3.

Snacks can be served in the Geography Workshop, perhaps individual size cereal boxes.

Invite people to be workshop leaders. Look for those who have a talent for a particular project. They should acquire the supplies for their workshop and bring them to the retreat.

Offer the opportunity for a performance. Both the Puppetry and Drama workshop lessons could be enacted for the larger group. Either ask people to prepare in advance of the retreat or take time on the first night and the next afternoon to rehearse. Gather appropriate props and print the appropriate number of scripts.

STEP 4: PREPARE FOR THE GATHERING TIMES

Each Gathering Time starts out with devotion. A responsive Call to Worship and a prayer can be read by volunteers of all ages. Print out several copies for the readers.

Day 1: Opening Night

- Invite someone to enact Dan West, the founder of Heifer International. The script is in the Storytelling workshop lesson.
- Create a space for the candle-decorating activity, also from the Storytelling lesson.
- Have the display ready for the Build the Ark activity.

Day 2:

- Use the candles made the previous night during the morning devotions.
- Invite someone to tell the story of Beatrice's Goat.

Day 3: Closing Morning

- Be ready to distribute the ark banks and the calendars.

STEP 5: PREPARE FOR THE FELLOWSHIP

The evenings are left to the discretion of the leaders. They are focused on fellowship. Some options to consider are:

- A Heifer Corner
Create a quiet place where people can peruse resources and enjoy be calm, relaxed and reflective and includes Heifer resources like:
 - Books
 - Amazing Math
 - Heifer Publications
- This could be a talent show night. A group may have rehearsed a drama or puppet show. There may be a slideshow to show from the Photography Workshop. There may be a video to see from the Make Your Own Video Workshop. Anticipate and arrange for media needs.
- Heifer has several videos. Preview them to determine which ones will work best with your group.

GATHERING TIMES

Day 1: Opening Night

Evening Devotions:

Call to Worship

Leader: We give you thanks and praise, O God, for this time that we have set aside from our daily lives to learn more about you. Fill our time together with the gift of your Holy Spirit.

ALL: *We give and receive gifts of hope, gifts of love, gifts of life.*

Leader: Open our hearts as we gather to learn and grow in faith and fellowship with one another.

ALL: *We give and receive gifts of hope, gifts of love, gifts of life.*

Leader: Lord all good and perfect gifts come from you. We give thanks for the work of Heifer International as they help us to share our gifts with people around the world.

ALL: *We give and receive gifts of hope, gifts of love, gifts of life*

Prayer

God we know that your great desire is for all people to work together so that no one is in need and that no one is uncared for. Bless the learning that we will do today so that we might grow in our understanding and knowledge of how we can work together to achieve things none of us could do alone. We give thanks for the ways that Heifer encourages communities to work together and honors the gifts of each member of the community, old and young alike. Jesus welcomed everyone to participate in your Kingdom and Heifer follows that model by inviting everyone in the community both here and around the world to participate in life changing programs. Bless us all as we work to make your Kingdom a reality on Earth. Amen.

Storytelling: Dan West

(From the Storytelling Workshop)

Build an Ark:

Divide into 12 groups and assign each group one Heifer Cornerstone and one scripture. In the group, talk about the Cornerstone and the scripture and prepare a creative way to share this information with the whole group.

Candle Activity: (See the Storytelling Workshop for instructions and supplies.)

Teach closing song ***Mi Chacra***

Evening Fellowship Time:

- During this time a group can work on the Puppetry or Drama workshop and present it to the group during evening fellowship on Day 2
- Show Heifer Videos of your choice
- Free Time

Day 2:

Morning Devotions: (use the candles made in the evening session)

Call to Worship

Leader: O, God, you are the light of the world. We light these candles as a sign of your light that shines in the world. This gift of light guides our

ALL: *We give and receive gifts of hope, gifts of love, gifts of life.*

Leader: Light our paths and illuminate our understanding of how each of us is connected to each other and you.

ALL: *We give and receive gifts of hope, gifts of love, gifts of life.*

Leader: God we know that we can light the candle of another without diminishing the light in our on candle. Help us learn and grow and use all our resources to pass on your light and love to others.

Opening Prayer

Dear God sometimes we ask how much is enough? Do I have enough? If I share, will I have enough for myself? Our stories of faith tell us over and over again that love is the most important thing we have and that there will always have enough if we share. There is no kindness or expression of love that is wasted. We give you thanks for this miracle of love and know that as we grow, we will feel and share love with countless people around the world, united to make the world a better place.

Read Beatrice's Goat

Song - *Mi Chacra*

Day Overview:

- Be sure that everyone knows the daily schedule
- Divide into three groups for workshop times
- Let everyone know where the workshops rooms are
- Acknowledge and thank the workshop leaders

Day 3:

Morning Devotions:

Call to worship

Leader: God thank you for this morning. We call it the present moment because we know it is a gift from you.

ALL: *We give and receive gifts of hope, gifts of love, gifts of life.*

Leader: Continue to open our hearts and minds as we learn more about our selves and the work of Heifer and can find new ways to share our resources with others.

ALL: *We give and receive gifts of hope, gifts of love, gifts of life.*

Opening Prayer

Loving and generous God we know that the life can be a great challenge for many people. This can be because of bad weather, like tornadoes and tsunamis, or because of war or lack of water. Help us to know that you work with us to help others overcome the many challenges they face. We are encouraged to act with kindness toward all people and work for justice is not for "Just us" but for all. Our prayer is that that everyone will have the opportunity to live a good, healthy and safe life in this generation and for generations to come. Amen.

Share video or photography workshop results.

Fill the Ark Program:

The resources provided by Heifer to connect the day's learning with the Fill the Ark program. Distribute the Arks to all families and have them share ways they plan on filling their arks. It is most helpful to set a group goal.

Song - Mi Chacra

Blessing on the journey:

God bless us as we leave this time together and bless the families who receive the living gifts from Heifer. We are grateful for the gifts and talents of this congregation that have been share this weekend. Your goodness and bounty are so abundant and by sharing with one another we make your Kingdom a reality on Earth. Amen.

Safe travel home.

CALLS TO WORSHIP AND PRAYERS

Print these devotions for each reader.

Day 1: Opening Night

Evening Devotions:

Call to worship

Leader: We give you thanks and praise, O God, for this time that we have set aside from our daily lives to learn more about you. Fill our time together with the gift of your Holy Spirit.

ALL: *We give and receive gifts of hope, gifts of love, gifts of life.*

Leader: Open our hearts as we gather to learn and grow in faith and fellowship with one another.

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Prayer

God we know that your great desire is for all people to work together so that no one is in need and that no one is uncared for. Bless the learning that we will do today so that we might grow in our understanding and knowledge of how we can work together to achieve things none of us could do alone. We give thanks for the ways that Heifer encourages communities to work together and honors the gifts of each member of the community, old and young alike. Your son welcomed everyone to participate in your Kingdom and Heifer follows that model by inviting everyone in the community both here and around the world to participate in life changing programs. Bless us all as we work to make your Kingdom a reality on Earth. Amen.

Day 2:

Morning Devotions: (use the candles made in the evening session)

Call to worship

Leader: O, God, you are the light of the world. We light these candles as a sign of your light that shines in the world. This gift of light guides our

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Leader: God we know that we can light the candle of another without diminishing the light in our own candle. Help us learn and grow and use all our resources to pass on your light and love to others.



Opening Prayer

Dear God sometimes we ask how much is enough? Do I have enough? If I share, will I have enough for myself? Our stories of faith tell us over and over again that love is the most important thing we have and that there will always have enough if we share. There is no kindness or expression of love that is wasted. We give you thanks for this miracle of love and know that as we grow and learn about the work of Heifer and the people whose lives are changed by it, we will feel and share love with countless people around the world, united to make the world a better place.

Day 3:

Morning Devotions:

Call to worship

Leader: God thank you for this morning. We call it the present moment because we know it is a gift from you.

ALL: *We give and receive gifts of hope, gifts of love, gifts of life.*

Leader: Continue to open our hearts and minds as we learn more about our selves and the work of Heifer and can find new ways to share our resources with others.

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Opening Prayer

Loving and generous God we know that the life can be a great challenge for many people. This can be because of bad weather like tornadoes and tsunamis or because of war or lack of water. Help us to know that you work with us to help others overcome the many challenges they face. We are encouraged to act with kindness toward all people and work for justice is not for “Just us” but for all. Our prayer is that that everyone will have the opportunity to live a good, healthy and safe life in this generation and for generations to come. Amen.

Feeding 5000

Midweek Program



www.heifer.org

Planning Guide

Mid-Week Program

This program is based on the Workshop Rotation Model. See the Resource Kit for more information about this model. A 10-week rotation provides an opportunity to focus on Heifer International for a whole season. This program incorporates:

- A weekly Gathering Time to learn about the Heifer Cornerstones
- Experiential workshops where the children make the connection between the Bible, their faith and Heifer
- A fundraiser –*Fill the Ark* or the *Living Gift Market*

The objectives of this curriculum are to establish:

- An awareness of the major global issues that create poverty
- A biblical connection to how Heifer International puts faith into action
- A desire to launch a fundraising event via *Fill the Ark* or the *Living Gift Market*

The Resource Kit has all of the details you need:

- How this is a Workshop Rotation Model curriculum
- Workshop overviews with scripture reference
- Fundraising ideas: *Fill the Ark* and the *Living Gift Market*
- Enhancements: Books, Amazing Math and Project Profiles, Gathering Times

Use this planning guide to help to organize the program:

1. Choose a fundraiser
2. Choose a rotation model
3. The structure of each session
4. Gathering Time
5. Opportunities for Volunteers

Choose a Fundraiser: *Fill the Ark* or *The Living Gift Market*

This 10-week program is intended to wrap global education around a fundraising event for Heifer International. Heifer provides specific resources for their major fundraising projects: *Fill the Ark* or the *Living Gift Market*. They provide valuable promotional materials and step-by-step guides for launching these events. Time is allotted in each session to work on either program. In either case, consider whether the congregation would accept the challenge of raising \$5,000 for a **Gift Ark**. All these resources can be found at www.heifer.org or by calling 800-422-0474.

Fill the Ark

Each family receives an ark bank with a four-week calendar that encourages reflection on Heifer animals and values. In the first five weeks, the arks are distributed and the children are asked to share the ways that they have been putting money into their arks. In the fifth week, the arks are collected. In the remaining five weeks, the group learns how much money they collected and they get to decide on which animals to buy. The last week is a celebration of filling the ark. The time slotted for this is 15 minutes at the end of the Gathering Time.

Week 1	Hand out ark banks and calendars.
Week 2	Ask group about stories from collecting money in their ark banks.
Week 3	
Week 4	
Week 5	Collect ark banks.
Week 6	Announce money collected. Could more be collected? Do they want to work for a Gift Ark of \$5,000?
Week 7	Review all Heifer commodities and open discussion about what the group can afford to buy.
Week 8	Should the group buy one expensive commodity (like a heifer) or lots of affordable commodities (like rabbits)? Or a mix?
Week 9	Decide what the group will buy with its money
Week 10	Celebrate!

The Living Gift Market

In this fundraising program the congregation sets up a marketplace with a variety of booths to encourage shoppers to purchase Heifer commodity is being promoted. The booths are decorated in creative ways and are often interactive. The time slotted for creating the booths during the mid-week program is 15 minutes, immediately following the workshop time. Anticipate the space needed for the preparation and storage of the booths, as well as the space for the market.

The actual market will take place either during an extended session on week 10 **OR** following Sunday worship.

Living Gift Market Booth Ideas for Each Animal

Depending on the size of the whole group, assign as many as ten groups to create booths for Heifer commodities. The Resource Kit has a list of booth ideas that are interactive and fun.

Use this guide to create the booths over the ten-week mid-week program

Week 1	Assign an animal/commodity to promote at the Living Gift Market. Why is it a valuable thing for Heifer to give to someone?
Week 2	What posters should be made? What information should they contain?
Week 3	Think of ways to make the booth come alive – could live or stuffed animals be on display?
Week 4	What are the by-products of the animal? Could they be showcased in the booth?
Week 5	Would anyone want to dress up as the animal? Does anyone know someone who could bring in a life animal for this particular booth?
Week 6	How can the booth become interactive?
Week 7	What is the lure that will encourage people to buy one of your animals?
Week 8	What supplies will be needed? Where will the group get them?
Week 9	What are the last minute details that need to get done?
Week 10	Welcome to the Living Gift Market! This Market will take place during an extended session to which the congregation and community have been invited OR following Sunday worship.

Choose a Rotation Model

After the Gathering Time, the children are in workshops where they experience a biblical story in relation to Heifer. This curriculum features ten workshops experienced over ten weeks. Descriptions of the ten workshop lessons are found in the Resource Kit.

Option A: A Single Group in One Workshop per Week

Programs with 20 or fewer children in their mid-week program and might choose to have a single cross-graded class that goes to one workshop per week. Use this worksheet to organize the teachers and rooms.

Workshop	Teacher	Room	Week
Storytelling			1
Geography			2
Cooking			3
Movement/Games			4
Science			5
Make Your Own Video			6
Photography			7
Drama			8
Art			9
Puppetry			10

Option B: Multiple Groups in Multiple Workshops each Week

Assign each group a Heifer animal: fish, goats, rabbits, camels, chickens, etc.

Groups can be by age group or cross-graded.

Create class lists for each group.

Create a way to identify the groups:

- A personal badge with an icon for the group
- A banner held by the teacher who will escort the group to the classroom
- Animal hats

Teachers are invited to facilitate one workshop for five weeks, working with a different group each week. Fill in the chart with the names of the teachers and the rooms they are assigned.

First Five Week Rotation

Workshop	Teacher	Room	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Storytelling			Fish	Goats	Rabbits	Camels	Chickens
Geography			Goats	Rabbits	Camels	Chickens	Fish
Cooking			Rabbits	Camels	Chickens	Fish	Goats
Movement/Games			Camels	Chickens	Fish	Goats	Rabbits
Science			Chickens	Fish	Goats	Rabbits	Camels

Second Five Week Rotation

Workshop	Teacher	Room	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Make Your Own Video			Fish	Goats	Rabbits	Camels	Chickens
Photography			Goats	Rabbits	Camels	Chickens	Fish
Drama			Rabbits	Camels	Chickens	Fish	Goats
Art			Camels	Chickens	Fish	Goats	Rabbits
Puppetry			Chickens	Fish	Goats	Rabbits	Camels

The Structure of Each Session

Whole Group Gathering Time	15 minutes	Opening Prayer Build an Ark and learn about Heifer's Cornerstones Make biblical connection to Heifer's work Share a Project Profile
Fundraiser A	15 minutes	<i>Fill the Ark</i> option: arks, calendars and decisions
Workshop	60 minutes	Ten workshops over 10 weeks
Fundraiser B	15 minutes	<i>Living Gift Market</i> option: Create booths for a <i>Living Gift Market</i>
Closing Song	15 minutes	Gather at the end of the workshop or booth building time for singing and a benediction.
Enhancements	These are options for the opening or closing times	Related books Amazing Math Snack Project Profiles

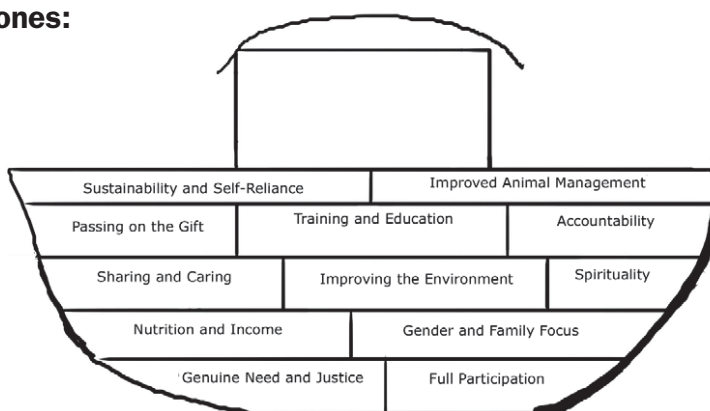
Gathering Time

There is 15 minutes allotted for the Gathering Time, the purpose of which is to set the stage for the workshops. While the workshops explore many facets of Heifer's efforts to eliminate world hunger, the Gathering Time is focused on the values that are the foundations of their decisions. Heifer calls those values Cornerstones. The group will build an ark showing the cornerstones along the planks of the ark and the animals on deck. See the Resource Kit for details.

Each week:

- Introduce a Heifer Cornerstone and its associated scripture.
- Highlight a Heifer animal. As the discussion unfolds, place a cornerstone card on a plank of the ark and an animal card on the deck. By the tenth week, the ark will show all of the cornerstones and animals of Heifer International.
- Go to the Resource Kit for the song and enhancements. These include related books, Amazing Math, snacks suggestions and Heifer Project Profiles.

Build the Ark with Heifer's Cornerstones:



Week	Build the Ark Overview		
	Cornerstone	Scripture	Animal
1	Passing on the Gift	Genesis 9:16 God's covenant with Noah	Heifer
2	Sustainability and Self Reliance	Genesis 41: 47-49, 56-57 Joseph, abundance and famine	Chickens
3	Improved Animal Management	Genesis 6:18-22 Noah and the animals	Bees
4	Sharing and Caring	Genesis 45:9-11 Joseph shares his abundance	Pigs
5	Improving the Environment	Psalms 8:3-9 Dominion over creation	Rabbits
6	Gender and Family Focus	Leviticus 19:9-10; Ruth 2:2 Gleaning	Water Buffalo
7	Training and Education	Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child	Goat
8	Spirituality	Psalms 63 My soul thirsts for you, O Lord	Trees
9	Full Participation	Matthew 14:13-21 Feeding of the 5000	Fish
10	Nutrition	I Samuel 28:22 Eat, that you may have strength to go on your way.	Sheep
	Accountability	Ezra 6:2 A record	
	Genuine Need and Justice	Micah 6:8 What does the Lord require of you...	

Opportunities for Volunteers

This is a great time to enlist volunteers. This should not be a one-person show, but rather a display of the vast array of talents within the congregation. Organize them to take on just one part of the picture and a grand event will take place. It's one of Heifer's Cornerstones: Full Participation.

- Gathering Time Leader (1)
- Workshop Facilitators (1/workshop)
- Shepherds (1/group)
- Fundraising Coordinator

Whole Group Gathering: Week 1

Opening Prayer:

Creator God, to you and only you we give our thanks and praise. We know that you have given us enough so that no one needs to be hungry or thirsty or without a home, yet we see people all over the world who are in need. Open our hearts and minds so that we can learn and grow in our faith so that our lives may be connected to others in positive ways. Bless us all in our teaching and learning. Amen.

Build the Ark:

Heifer Cornerstones: Passing on the Gift

Every family who receives an animal signs a contract to pass on one or more of their animal's offspring to another family need, and also agrees to pass on to others the training and skills that they have acquired.

Scripture: Genesis 9:16

When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the Earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the Earth."

Make a connection between God's covenant with humankind and the covenant we establish among each other.

Animal: Heifer

The first animal that Dan West sent to Puerto Rico in 1944 was a heifer.

Tape the cornerstone/scripture card on a plank on the ark and the animal card on the deck.

Fill the Ark Program:

Hand out the ark banks and calendars.

(Workshop)

Living Market Booth:

Assign an animal/commodity to promote at the Living Market. Discover why it is such a valuable thing for Heifer to give to someone in need.

Closing Song: *Mi Chacra* (See Resource Kit)

Enhancements: See the Resource Kit for details

- Related Books: Old Turtle
- Amazing Math: Heifer
- Snack: Black Cows (root beer floats), dairy product (bread and butter, ice cream, yogurt) or beef product (beef jerky)

Whole Group Gathering: Week 2

Opening Prayer:

God you are our helper in all things. There are times that we want to do everything our own way and we don't listen to you or to creation. People work and farm in ways that hurt the Earth and each other. We are thankful that through the support of Heifer International people all around the world learn new things so that they support their families and work in harmony with the Earth and one another. The book of Proverbs teaches us to trust in the Lord with all our hearts and to rely on God and God's ways. Open our hearts and minds in our time together so we too can be in harmony with your will for the world. Amen.

Build the Ark:

Heifer Cornerstones: Sustainability and Self Reliance

Each community must plan how to support itself.

Scripture: Genesis 41:47-49, 56-57

During the seven plenteous years the Earth produced abundantly. He (Joseph) gathered up all the food of the seven years when there was plenty in the land of Egypt, and stored up food in the cities; he stored up in every city the food from the fields around it. So Joseph stored up grain in such abundance – like the sand of the sea – that he stopped measuring it; it was beyond measure.

And since the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. Moreover, all the world came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, because the famine became severe throughout the world.

Make a connection between Joseph's management of agriculture and how systems need to be put into place for a community to be self-sustaining.

Animal: Chickens

Read the attributes and cost of the animal from the card.

Tape the cornerstone/scripture card on a plank on the ark and the animal card on the deck.

Fill the Ark Program:

Ask the group about stories from collecting money in their ark banks.

(Workshop)

Living Market Booth:

What posters should be made? What information should they contain?

Closing Song: *Mi Chacra*

Enhancements: See Resource Kit

- Related Books: [Fly, Eagle Fly](#)
- Amazing Math: Chickens
- Snack: Chicken nuggets, plastic eggs filled with a treat

Gathering Time: Week 3

Opening Prayer:

God you made such a wonderful world with so many different kinds of places, high mountain places, deep cool valleys, rivers and plains, deserts and rainforests. We give thanks that you made animals that grow well in each of these places. You are so amazing. We rejoice that through Heifer we can help struggling families, no matter where they live, have animals and crops that are right for their home. Be with us as we continue to learn about this valuable work and ways that we can support it. Amen.

Build the Ark:

Heifer Cornerstones: Improved Animal Management

Proper methods regarding feed, water, shelter and health care for the animals assure that the livestock will continue to be a source of well being. The species and breed chosen must be appropriate for the area.

Scripture: Genesis 41:47-49, 56-57

But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every kind shall come in to you, to keep them alive. Also take with you every kind of food that is eaten, and store it up; and it shall serve as food for you and for them." Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

Make a connection between the animal management that Noah had to practice and the methods that Heifer uses in placing a particular animal with a particular family.

Animal: Bees

Read the attributes and cost of the animal from the card.

Tape the cornerstone/scripture card on a plank on the ark and the animal card on the deck.

Fill the Ark Program:

Ask the group about stories from collecting money in their ark banks.

(Workshop)

Living Market Booth:

Think of ways to make the booth come alive – could be live or stuffed animals on display.

Closing Song: *Mi Chacra*

Enhancements:

- Related Books: *Noah's Ark* by Spier
- Amazing Math: Bees
- Snack: Honey products (be aware of allergies)

Gathering Time: Week 4

Opening Prayer:

Dear God sometimes we ask how much is enough? Do I have enough? If I share, will I have enough for myself? Our stories of faith tell us over and over again that love is the most important thing we have and that there will always have enough if we share. There is no kindness or expression of love that is wasted. We give you thanks for this miracle of love and know that as we grow and learn about the work of Heifer and the people whose lives are changed by it, we will feel and share love with countless people around the world, united to make the world a better place. Amen.

Build the Ark:

Heifer Cornerstones: Sharing and Caring

If all people are committed to sharing what they have and caring about other, everyone benefits.

Scripture: Genesis 45:9-11

Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there – since there are five more years of famine to come – so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'

Make a connection between the Joseph's empathy for his struggling family and sharing from his abundance.

Animal: Pigs

Read the attributes and cost of the animal from the card.

Tape the cornerstone/scripture card on a plank on the ark and the animal card on the deck.

Fill the Ark Program:

Ask the group about stories from collecting money in their ark banks. Remind them to bring their banks to church next week.

(Workshop)

Living Market Booth:

What are the by-products of the animal? Could they be showcased in the booth?

Closing Song: *Mi Chacra*

Enhancements:

- Related Books: *The Quiltmaker's Gift*
- Amazing Math: Pigs
- Snack: Pigs in a Blanket (cocktail hotdogs wrapped in biscuit dough)

Whole Group Gathering: Week 5

Opening Prayer:

How great is your handiwork, oh God. You created the worlds and all the animals that dwell upon it. When people work within the cycles of nature we can see how dead leaves and plants along with manure are turned into a perfect place for crops to grow. Dark, rich soil protects the seeds when they are planted and then gives it nutrition when it starts to grow. We know that when we treat the Earth with respect plants can grow better. Amazing things happen when animals and humans live in harmony with the Earth. Bless us as we learn and work to make the world a better place to live and grow. Amen.

Build the Ark:

Heifer Cornerstones: Improving the Environment

Heifer livestock should improve the environment by having a positive impact on ecology.

Scripture: Psalm 8:3-9

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

Make a connection between God's granting humankind dominion over creation and humankind's responsibility for the environment.

Animal: Trees

Read the attributes and cost of the trees from the card.

Tape the cornerstone/scripture card on a plank on the ark and the animal card on the deck.

Fill the Ark Program:

Collect the ark banks and estimate how much money might have come in.

(Workshop)

Living Market Booth:

Would anyone like to dress up as the animal?

Does anyone know someone who could bring in a live animal?

Closing Song: *Mi Chacra*

Enhancements:

- Related Books: *The Giving Tree*
- Amazing Math: Trees
- Snack: Cut up fruits or nuts (be aware of allergies)

Gathering Time: Week 6

Opening Prayer:

Gracious and loving God, men and women work side by side to gather the fruits of their labors in fields near and far. They harvest the crops after they have planted and cared for them for the whole growing season. Side by side, step-by-step, in rain and sun they have cared tenderly for their crops. As they gather in the bounty they know that each handful of grain is a handful of hope. They will divide the grain, some to feed their animals, some to feed their family and some to plant. By working together and respecting the gifts that each person brings to a project we all benefit by a greater harvest of love and strength and courage. Amen.

Build the Ark:

Heifer Cornerstones: Gender and Family Focus

Women and men share in decision-making, ownership, labor and benefits. Heifer has a gender program, Heifer's WiLD (Women in Livestock Development) program that supports women's projects.

Scripture: Leviticus 19:9-10 and Ruth 2:2

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien; I am the Lord your God.

And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain, behind someone in whose sight I may find favor."

Make a connection between gleaning and abundance.

Animal: Water Buffalo

Read the attributes and cost of the animal from the card.

Tape the cornerstone/scripture card on a plank on the ark and the animal card on the deck.

Fill the Ark Program:

Announce the money collected. Could more be collected? Do they want to work for a Gift Ark of \$5,000?

(Workshop)

LivingMarket Booth:

How can the booth become interactive?

Closing Song: *Mi Chacra*

Enhancements:

- Related Book: *Demi. The Empty Pot.*
- Amazing Math: Water Buffalo
- Snack: A rice treat, beef jerky

Gathering Time: Week 7

Opening Prayer:

God no matter how old we are or how much we know there is always more to learn. Give us open minds and open hearts so that we can learn the things we need to know about people and the world. We are glad the one of the important things about Heifer is that they believe education is important to a world that is just and good for all people. Bless their work and our learning in this time together. Amen.

Build the Ark:

Heifer Cornerstones: Training and Education

Once a project is introduced to an area, the local people become involved as trainers in livestock husbandry and care for the environment.

Scripture: Proverbs 22:6

Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.

Make a connection between training and creating a future of hope.

Animal: Goat

Read the attributes and cost of the animal from the card.

Tape the cornerstone/scripture card on a plank on the ark and the animal card on the deck.

Fill the Ark Program: Review all Heifer commodities and open discussion about what the group can afford to buy.

(Workshop)

Living Market Booth:

What is the lure that will encourage people to buy one of your animals?

Closing Song: *Mi Chacra*

Enhancements:

- Related Book: *Beatrice's Goat*
- Amazing Math: Goats
- Snack: Feta or goat cheese on crackers or sliced fruit

Gathering Time: Week 8

Opening Prayer:

God you are our very source of being. Our first breath is a gift from you. We acknowledge you in all that we do. Be our constant guide and companion as we learn about the many ways that Heifer honors all people and creation. We give thanks that Heifer pays attention to what makes each community unique and enlists their gifts and talents to change lives. Make our work and learning here a blessing to our lives and the lives of those touched by Heifer's work. Amen.

Build the Ark:

Heifer Cornerstones: Spirituality

Heifer recognizes that spirituality is common to all people and that it often creates a strong bond among group members.

Scripture: Psalm 63:1

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirst for you.

Make a connection between spirituality and yearning to connect with the Creator.

Animal: Rabbit

Read the attributes and cost of the animal from the card.

Tape the cornerstone/scripture card on a plank on the ark and the animal card on the deck.

Fill the Ark Program:

Should the group buy one expensive commodity (like a heifer) or lots of affordable commodities (like rabbits)? Or a mix?

(Workshop)

Living Market Booth:

What supplies are needed? Where will the group get them?

Closing Song: *Mi Charca*

Enhancements:

- Related book: *Home for a Bunny*
- Amazing Math: Rabbits
- Snack: Feta or goat cheese on crackers or sliced fruit

Gathering Time: Week 9

Opening Prayer:

God we know that your great desire is for all people to work together so that no one is in need and that no one is uncared for. Bless the learning that we will do today so that we might grow in our understanding and knowledge of how we can work together to achieve things none of us could do alone. We give thanks for the ways that Heifer encourages communities to work together and honors the gifts of each member of the community, old and young alike. Your son welcomed everyone to participate in your Kingdom by inviting everyone in the community both here and around the world to participate in life-changing programs. Bless us all as we work to make your Kingdom a reality on Earth. Amen.

Build the Ark:

Heifer Cornerstones: Full Participation

A truly effective group has strong leadership and organization and is committed to involving all members in decision-making.

Scripture: Matthew 14:13-21

Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Make a connection between the miracle of the Feeding of the 5000 and full participation in a local Heifer project.

Animal: Fish

Read the attributes and cost of the fish from the card.

Tape the cornerstone/scripture card on a plank on the ark and the animal card on the deck.

Fill the Ark Program:

Decide what the group will buy with its money.

(Workshop)

Living Market Booth:

What are the last minute details that need to get done?

Closing Song: *Mi Chacra*

Enhancements:

- Related Book: *Swimmy*
- Amazing Math: Fish
- Snack: Fish Crackers

Gathering Time: Week 10

Opening Prayer:

Loving and generous God we know that the life can be a great challenge for many people. This can be because of bad weather like tornadoes and tsunamis or because of war or lack of water. Help us to know that you work with us to help others overcome the many challenges they face. We are encouraged to act with kindness toward all people and work for justice is not for “Just us” but for all. Our prayer is that that everyone will have the opportunity to live a good, healthy and safe life in this generation and for generations to come. Amen.

Build the Ark:

Heifer Cornerstones: There are three this last week:

Nutrition and Income

Livestock provides for the immediate need of nutrition while also ensuring long-term economic security.

Accountability

Groups set their own goals and plan strategies and must submit semi-annual monitoring reports to Heifer International.

Genuine Need and Justice

The poorest in the community should be included in the group membership and receive priority for assistance.

Scripture:

Nutrition: I Samuel 28:22

Eat, that you may have strength to go on your way.

Accountability: Ezra 6:2

But it was in Ecbatana, the capital in the province of Media, that a scroll was found on which this was written: “A record ...”

Genuine Need and Justice: Micah 6:8

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Animal: Sheep

Read the attributes and cost of the trees from the card.

Tape the cornerstone/scripture card on a plank on the ark and the animal card on the deck.

Fill the Ark Program: Celebrate!

(Workshop)

Living Market Booth:

Welcome to the Living Market!

Closing Song: *Mi Chacra*

Enhancements:

- Amazing Math: Sheep
- Snack: Sheep cheese

STUDY *Feeding 5,000:*
A faith-based educational program



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Feeding 5000

Traditional Sunday School



www.heifer.org

Planning Guide

Traditional Sunday School

Whether dropping in a four week rotation unit or a one week focus, consider using this curriculum as a promotion to the entire congregation to participate in the Fill the Ark program or staging a Living Gift Market.

Go to the Resource Kit to find:

- How this is a Workshop Rotation Model curriculum
- Workshop overviews with scripture reference
- Fundraising ideas: Fill the Ark and The Living Gift Market
- Enhancements: Books, Amazing Math, Gathering Times

Option A: Drop in a four-week rotation unit about Heifer International:

- Use the **Four Week Rotation Planning Guide** to determine which of the 10 workshops will be offered.

Option B: Use this curriculum as a one-day focus within the Sunday School Program.

Grades	Scripture	Workshop Suggestion	Description
Pre-School	Noah and the Ark Genesis 6:9-9:17	Animal Cookies in Pre-School packet	Make and decorate animal cookies while learning about the animals Heifer can provide.
1 st and 2 nd Graders	Feeding of the 5000 John 6:14	Art	Learn about how fish have been the subject in miracles, Christian art, the church and Heifer. Make a fish banner or mobile using the Japanese printing process of gyotaku.
3 rd and 4 th Graders	Paul's Conversion Acts 9	Storytelling	Hear the storyteller, Dan West, testify to how his faith led him to found Heifer. Create drip candles to remember the diversity of HEIFER commodities and an awareness of God's presence.
5 th and 6 th Graders	The Samaritan Woman at the Well John 4:1-42	Make Your Own Video	The Samaritan Woman and Sharada from Nepal tell their stories of transformation and living water. Highlight the WiLD program. Make video ads for the various commodities Heifer offers.



Choose a fundraiser:

- Launch the *Fill the Ark* program by distributing the arks and calendars in the first week and collecting them four weeks later.
- OR Launch the *Living Gift Market* to occur on the final week of the rotation.
- The Resource Kit includes a celebration in a worship setting.

Enhancements:

If you have the opportunity for gathering time, refer to the Resource Kit for ideas. This gathering time is what links the group together and encourages participation in *Fill the Ark* or *The Living Gift Market*.

- *Build the Ark*: This builds the graphic of Noah's ark using Heifer Cornerstones as the planks. It connects those cornerstones with scripture. Twelve Heifer animals are highlighted.
- Related illustrated books
- Amazing Math
- Heifer Resources
- A theme song

To create a children's worship, add an invocation, joys and concerns and a prayer.

STUDY *Feeding 5,000:*
A faith-based educational program



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Feeding 5000

Workshop Rotation Model



www.heifer.org

Planning Guide

Workshop Rotation Model (WRM) Sunday School

Grades 1-6

Four groups

This Heifer curriculum can be a rotation on Heifer International. Connections are made between Heifer, scripture and acting out of faith. This is the educational and faith foundation for raising awareness of Heifer International. Pick among ten workshops. Invite the talents of the church to emerge to raise awareness about how faith intersects with Heifer. Use this as a spearhead to launch a Heifer fundraiser.

The Resource Kit has all of the details you need:

- How this is a Workshop Rotation Model curriculum
- Workshop overviews with scripture reference
- Fundraising ideas: Fill the Ark and The Living Gift Market
- Enhancements: Books, Amazing Math, Gathering Times

Use this planning guide to help organize your program:

Step 1: Organize the Rotation

Step 2: Choose the Fundraiser

Step 3: Prepare for Gathering Times: Build the Ark

Step 1: Organize the rotation

1. Consider the number of workshops needed:

- How many children are expected?
- How will the children be divided into groups?
 - Are there enough children for a viable class for every grade?
 - Are there some grades that can be clustered, like 2nd and 3rd grades?
 - If only two classes are needed, can they be divided based on being a reader or non-reader?
 - Will it be a one-room Sunday School?
- The number of groups equals the number of workshops. Even a one-room Sunday School will need four different workshops, one for each of the four Sundays.
- Assign Groups A-D in the chart below to each group that will go through the rotation.

2. Choose the workshops:

- Look at the Workshop Overviews in the Resource Kit.
- Choose four from the ten workshops:
 - Which ones are immediately appealing?
 - Why?
 - Are there talents in the congregation that could be invited to be teachers for the month in a particular workshop? Use the Talent column in the Workshop Overviews for some ideas.

- Write the names of the chosen workshops across the top row of the chart.
- Write the room numbers across the third row.

3. Figure out the rotation:

Workshop	Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3	Workshop 4
Teacher				
Room				
Week 1	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
Week 2	B	C	D	A
Week 3	C	D	A	B
Week 4	D	A	B	C

4. Invite

Search the congregation for the talent that would really make the lesson pop off the page.

Write their names across the second row.

Step 2: Choose the Fundraiser

1. *Fill the Ark*

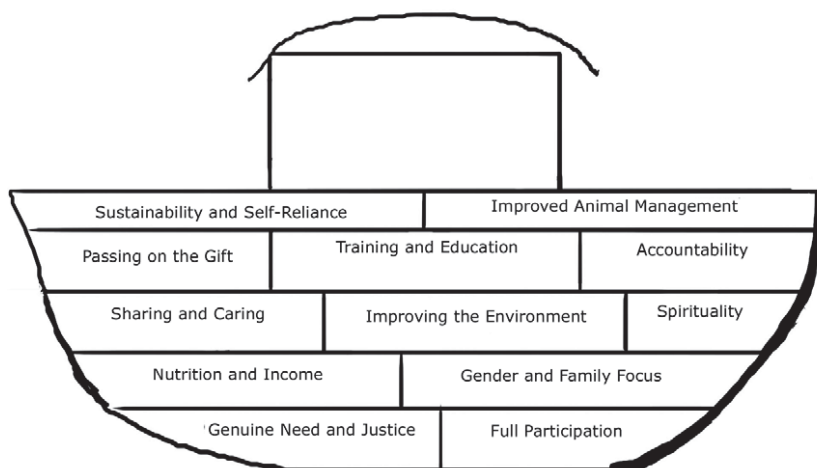
On the first week of the rotation, distribute the ark banks and calendars. On the last day, collect the arks. The Resource Kit includes an idea for highlighting the Heifer collection during a worship service.

2. *The Living Gift Market*

Run this rotation four weeks before hosting a Living Gift Market. The children can create various animal booths in their workshops. Small groups can volunteer to create and host a booth for a particular animal. The Living Gift Market becomes a celebration of the church's awareness of how their faith lives intersect with the work of Heifer International.

Step 3: Prepare for Gathering Time: *Build the Ark*

If your program includes time for the whole group to gather, four sessions are included in this packet that highlight Heifer's Twelve Cornerstones. Each week, the ark is built with planks that feature Heifer Cornerstones and scripture. A Heifer animal is added on deck. This gathering time links the group together and encourages participation in *Fill the Ark* or *The Living Gift Market*. See the Resource Kit for details.



Enhancements:

Refer to the Resource Kit for these ideas:

- Related illustrated books
- Amazing Math
- Heifer Resources
- A theme song

To create a children's worship experience, add an invocation, joys and concerns and a prayer.

Countdown:

- Get supplies
- Advertise
- Coordinate with other groups to elicit the full participation of the congregation

Opportunities for Volunteers:

This is a great time to enlist volunteers. This should not be a one-person show, but rather a display of the vast array of talents within the congregation. Organize them to take on just one part of the picture and a grand event will take place. It's one of Heifer's Cornerstones: Full Participation.

- Gathering Time Leader (1)
- Workshop Facilitators
- Fundraising Coordinator

Gathering Time Leader Guides:

WEEK 1

Opening Prayer:

Creator God, to you and only you we give our thanks and praise. We know that you have given us enough so that no one needs to be hungry or thirsty or without a home, yet we see people all over the world who are in need. Open our hearts and minds so that we can learn and grow in our faith so that our lives may be connected to others in positive ways. Bless us all in our teaching and learning. Amen.

Build the Ark:

Heifer Cornerstone: Passing on the Gift

Every family who receives an animal signs a contract to pass on one or more of their animal's offspring to another family in need, and also agrees to pass on to others the training and skills that they have acquired.

Scripture: Genesis 9:16

When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Make a connection between God's covenant with humankind and the covenant we establish among each other.

Animal: Heifer

The first animal that Dan West sent to Puerto Rico in 1944 was a heifer.

Heifer Cornerstone: Sustainability and Self Reliance

Each community must plan how to support itself.

Scripture: Genesis 41:47-49, 56-57

During the seven plenteous years the earth produced abundantly. He (Joseph) gathered up all the food of the seven years when there was plenty in the land of Egypt, and stored up food in the cities; he stored up in every city the food from the fields around it. So Joseph stored up grain in such abundance – like the sand of the sea – that he stopped measuring it; it was beyond measure.

And since the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. Moreover, all the world came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, because the famine became severe throughout the world.

Make a connection between Joseph's management of agriculture and how systems need to be put into place for a community to be self-sustaining.

Animal: Chickens

Read the attributes and cost of the animal from the card.

Heifer Cornerstone: Full Participation

A truly effective group has strong leadership and organization and is committed to involving all members in decision-making.

Scripture: Matthew 14:13-21

Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Make a connection between the miracle of the Feeding of the 5000 and full participation in a local Heifer project.

Animal: Fish

Read the attributes and cost of the animal from the card.

Tape the cornerstone/scripture cards on the ark and the animal card on the deck.

Talk about the fund raiser you are doing as a congregation. Share appropriate information each week.

Fill the Ark Program:

- Hand out the ark banks and calendars
- Ask the group for ideas about how they can collect money for their ark banks

Living Gift Market Booth:

- Assign an animal/commodity to promote at the Living Market. Discover why it is such a valuable thing for Heifer to give to someone in need.
- What are the by-products of the animal? Could they be showcased in the booth?

Closing Song: Mi Chacra (See Resource Kit)

WEEK 2

Opening Prayer:

God you are our helper in all things. There are times that we want to do everything our own way and we don't listen to you or to creation. People work and farm in ways that hurt the Earth and each other. We are thankful that through the support of Heifer International people all around the world learn new things so that they support their families and work in harmony with the Earth and one another. The book of Proverbs teaches us to trust in the Lord with all our hearts and to rely on God and God's ways. Open our hearts and minds in our time together so we too can be in harmony with your will for the world. Amen.

Build the Ark:

Heifer Cornerstone: Improved Animal Management

Proper methods regarding feed, water, shelter and health care for the animals assure that the livestock will continue to be a source of well being. The species and breed chosen must be appropriate for the area.

Scripture: Genesis 41:47-49, 56-57

But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every kind shall come in to you, to keep them alive. Also take with you every kind of food that is eaten, and store it up; and it shall serve as food for you and for them." Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

Make a connection between the animal management that Noah had to practice and the methods that Heifer uses in placing a particular animal with a particular family.

Animal: Bees

Read the attributes and cost of the animal from the card.

Heifer Cornerstone: Sharing and Caring

If all people are committed to sharing what they have and caring about other, everyone benefits.

Scripture: Genesis 45:9-11

Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there – since there are five more years of famine to come – so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'

Make a connection between the Joseph's empathy for his struggling family and sharing from his abundance.

Animal: Pigs

Read the attributes and cost of the animal from the card.

Heifer Cornerstone: Improving the Environment

Heifer livestock should improve the environment by having a positive impact on ecology.

Scripture: Psalm 8:3-9

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

Make a connection between God's granting humankind dominion over creation and humankind's responsibility for the environment.

Animal: Trees

Read the attributes and cost of the trees from the card.

Tape the cornerstone/scripture cards on the ark and the animal card on the deck.

Fill the Ark Program:

- Review all Heifer commodities and open discussion about what the group can afford to buy.
- Should the group buy one expensive commodity (like a heifer) or lots of affordable commodities (like rabbits)? Or a mix?
- Ask the group about stories from collecting money in their ark banks.

Living Gift Market Booth:

- Think of ways to make the booth come alive – can live or stuffed animals be on display?
- Would anyone like to dress up as the animal?
- Does anyone know someone who could bring in a live animal?

WEEK 3

Opening Prayer:

How great is your handiwork oh God? You created the worlds and all the animals that dwell upon it. When people work within the cycles of nature we can see how dead leaves and plants along with manure are turned into a perfect place for crops to grow. Dark, rich soil protects the seeds when they are planted and then gives it nutrition when it starts to grow. We know that when we treat the Earth with respect plants can grow better. Amazing things happen when animals and humans live in harmony with the Earth. Bless us as we learn and work to make the world a better place to live and grow. Amen.

Build the Ark:

Heifer Cornerstone: Gender and Family Focus

Women and men share in decision-making, ownership, labor and benefits. Heifer has a gender program, Heifer's WiLD (Women in Livestock Development) program that supports women's projects.

Scripture: Leviticus 19:9-10 and Ruth 2:2

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien; I am the Lord your God.

And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain, behind someone in whose sight I may find favor."

Make a connection between gleaning and abundance.

Animal: Water Buffalo

Read the attributes and cost of the animal from the card.

Heifer Cornerstone: Training and Education

Once a project is introduced to an area, the local people become involved as trainers in livestock husbandry and care for the environment.

Scripture: Proverbs 22:6

Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.

Make a connection between training and creating a future of hope.

Animal: Goat

Read the attributes and cost of the animal from the card.

Heifer Cornerstone: Spirituality

Heifer recognizes that spirituality is common to all people and that it often creates a strong bond among group members.

Scripture: Psalm 63:1

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirst for you.

Make a connection between spirituality and yearning to connect with the Creator.

Animal: Rabbit

Read the attributes and cost of the animal from the card.

Tape the cornerstone/scripture cards on the ark and the animal card on the deck.

Fill the Ark:

Decide what the group will buy with its money.

Ask the group about stories from collecting money in their ark banks.

Remind them to bring their banks to church next week.

Living Gift Market Booth:

How can the booth become interactive?

What is the lure that will encourage people to buy one of your animals?

What supplies are needed? Where will the group get them?

Closing Song

WEEK 4

Opening Prayer:

God we know that your great desire is for all people to work together so that no one is in need and that no one is uncared for. Bless the learning that we will do today so that we might grow in our understanding and knowledge of how we can work together to achieve things none of us could do alone. We give thanks for the ways that Heifer encourages communities to work together and honors the gifts of each member of the community, old and young alike. Your son welcomed everyone to participate in your Kingdom and Heifer follows that model by inviting everyone in the community both here and around the world to participate in life changing programs. Bless us all as we work to make your Kingdom a reality on Earth. Amen.

Build the Ark:

Heifer Cornerstone: Nutrition and Income

Livestock provides for the immediate need of nutrition while also ensuring long-term economic security.

Scripture: I Samuel 28:22

Eat, that you may have strength to go on your way.

Animal: Sheep

Read the attributes and cost of the animal from the card.

Heifer Cornerstone: Accountability

Groups set their own goals and plan strategies and must submit semi-annual monitoring reports to Heifer International.

Scripture: Ezra 6:2

But it was in Ecbatana, the capital in the province of Media, that a scroll was found on which this was written: "A record ..."

Heifer Cornerstone: Genuine Need and Justice

The poorest in the community should be included in the group membership and receive priority for assistance.

Micah 6:8

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Tape the cornerstone/scripture cards on the ark and the animal card on the deck.



Fill the Ark Program:

- Collect the ark banks and estimate how much money might have come in.
- Announce the money collected. Could more be collected? Do they want to work for a Gift Ark of \$5000?
- Has a worship service been planned where the total could be announced and celebrated? Look in the Resource Kit for the Worship Celebration.

Living Gift Market Booth:

- What posters should be made? What information should they contain?
- What are the last minute details that need to get done?

Closing Song

Feeding 50000

WORKSHOP:

Art



www.heifer.org

PASS ON
THE GIFT
HEIFER
INTERNATIONAL

OUTLINE – Art Workshop

Scripture: John 6:1-14

Connection of the scripture to Heifer:

The story of the feeding of the 5,000 is a daily reality for those who support Heifer International. Heifer works with communities by providing the means for people to support themselves. A family is expected to pass on their gift by sharing their one or more of their animal's offspring—as well as knowledge, resources and skills to a neighbor in hopes of improving the health of the whole community. One gift passes on to another and another until the community is self reliant; that community passes on the gift to other communities, reaching a global impact of ending hunger and poverty. It's the feeding of the 5,000 gone global.

Objectives:

- Jesus performed a miracle when he fed 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish.
- Heifer helps to feed thousands throughout the world by supplying the means to produce their own food.
- The Heifer philosophy is to Pass on the Gift, when a family passes on one or more of its animal's offspring to another family.

Overview:

- Conduct a Bible study on Jesus' feeding of the 5,000.
- Look at the early Christian art found in the catacombs that uses the fish symbol.
- Learn why the fish is the symbol of the church.
- Learn how Heifer feeds thousands with a focus on fish.
- Create a fish banner or fish-mobile using the Japanese printing process of *gyotaku*.
- Ponder how to raise money to purchase fish for Heifer.

Supplies:

- Class set of Bibles
- Newspaper to cover the table surface and blot brushes
- Smocks
- Paint brushes
- Tempera paints in many colors
- Bowls of water to rinse out brushes
- Several plastic fish replicas (www.eNasco.com has a wide variety—type *gyotaku*)
- There is debate as to whether it is legitimate to use real fish for an art project when others don't have enough to eat. To be authentic *gyotaku*, real fish would be used. This would also reinforce the goal of Heifer to acknowledge the indigenous culture.
- Disposable plastic gloves if using real fish.

- Option 1: fabric banner
 - A piece of muslin long enough to hang across a room
- Option 2: paper fish-mobile
 - For each participant, have two pieces of banner paper at least 2” wider than the fish.
 - Scissors
 - Stapler
 - String
 - Newspaper to stuff into paper fish

Advance Research:

To learn how fish appear in the catacombs and provide visuals for the class, print out the photos from the website <http://www.jesuswalk.com/christian-symbols/fish.htm> or show them via a computer hook-up to the internet that is plugged into a TV or projector.

Information about aquaculture can be found on the Heifer website at “Reap the Benefits of Urban Agriculture” <http://www.heifer.org/site/c.edJRKQNiFiG/b.736011/>

Advance Preparation:

Prepare the work area so that the participants can paint their fish, turn them onto the fabric or paper and then clean their brushes.

Consider inviting a fisher to demonstrate how to catch and clean fish.

Think about how the banner or fish mobile will be displayed. Do they stay in the classroom? Will they be used as an exhibit for a fundraiser for Heifer? Will they become a fish booth for a Living Gift Market?

LESSON – Art Workshop

Introduction:

What if you read a headline that said, “Man feeds 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish?” What would you say? Would you believe it? Perhaps it’s the kind of headline that people see in the grocery store tabloids. It would seem impossible and unexplainable.

Bible Study:

For Jesus, his disciples and those 5,000 who were fed, there was only one explanation. It was a miracle. Read what the Bible says about this story.

- (Distribute the Bibles.)
- The Bible is split into two parts. The first part is the Old Testament or Hebrew Scriptures; this tells the story of the Hebrew people and testifies to their relationship with God. The second part is the New Testament; this tells the story of Jesus Christ and the church. Open to the New Testament.
- The first four books of the Bible are called the Gospels and tell the story of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This story is told in all four gospels.
- Open to the fourth book, the Gospel of John.
- Notice the big numbers; those are the chapters. Open to Chapter 6.
- Notice the small numbers; those are verses. Look for verse 1.
- Read John 6:1-14.

Enact the script found on pages 6-7.

- Assign reading roles for the narrator, persons 1-4, Jesus, Philip, Andrew and the crowd.
- Keep this as simple as a reading or elaborate with costumes and props.

Discussion:

People call this a miracle. What do you think is a miracle? Can this be explained? A miracle is something that can’t be explained. Somehow, God was present, making it happen. That’s what Jesus was doing with this miracle of the feeding of the 5,000. He was showing God’s presence by feeding their physical hunger. The rest of his ministry would show people how he would feed their spiritual hunger.

Jesus’ ministry gave us a vision of what the Kingdom of God is like. One vision was that everyone would be fed. In order to make that come true, we all are called to participate, to share our abundance, to pass on our gifts and talents to others in need.

For older children, they can look up the other accounts of this miracle and compare them. Look at Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:32-44; Luke 9:10-17.

The Fish Symbol and the Church:

Show pictures of the catacombs art to the class and share information about early Christian art and symbolism. Early Christians decorated their old burial tombs under the city of Rome with imagery that reminded them of God’s saving grace. The fish is a common symbol of the church. It reminds us that Jesus fed 5,000 people with just two fish and five loaves of bread. The first four people that Jesus called to be disciples were fishermen. Jesus met Peter on the beach after the resurrection while cooking fish.

The ICHTHUS is a symbol in the shape of a *fish*.

In Greek, when you put together the first letters of the following words, they spell *fish*. JESUS CHRIST GOD SON SAVIOR



Heifer Connection:

There is an old saying that if you give a hungry person a fish, that person will be hungry again tomorrow. If you teach that person to fish, that person will be fed for life.

While serving milk to refugees in the Spanish Civil War, the founder of Heifer, Dan West, realized that it wasn't enough to simply provide them with a cup of milk each day. They needed the means to supply their own milk. When he returned to his farm in Indiana, he decided to send heifers, young cows, back to Spain. The idea and program blossomed into Heifer International.

Since 1944, Heifer has helped 12.5 million families in more than 125 countries become self-reliant. Heifer provides someone with the "living loan" of an animal. That animal provides both food and income. In turn, the family passes on the offspring to another family in need. Over time, Passing on the Gift to a neighbor can lift a whole community out of poverty.

From the *Animal Crackers* reference:

Share the story about Carmen and how she encouraged the other women in her community to start a tilapia farm in the Philippines as well as the information about fish found on pages 14-15.

Share more information about urban agriculture from the Heifer website entitled "Reap the Benefits of Urban Agriculture."

A donation of fish to Heifer is \$50. How could we raise \$50 to get someone started on a fish farm? Make this the source of discussion while the class is making their fish prints.

Gyotaku Project:



Create a fish banner/mobile to help remember how Heifer calls us to live out our faith by helping others to feed themselves. When a Japanese fisherman would catch a great fish, he would make a print of it to prove how big it was or what kind it was. He would cover the fish with ink and then press rice paper over it to make the print. Over time, this grew into a beautiful art form. Make a banner/fish mobile in that same method.

Option 1: Fabric banner

Let the participants paint their fish with a thin layer of paint, roll them onto the fabric and then wash up.

Option 2: Fish mobile

Let the participants paint their fish with a thin layer of paint and roll them onto a piece of banner paper. Once the paper is dry, put the print together with another piece of banner paper and cut around the edge of the print. Staple the two sides and the top, leaving an opening in which to stuff newspaper. Staple the bottom. Staple a string from the top.

Display in the room or in an area where you are exhibiting a fundraiser for Heifer.



Fundraising Options:

- A) Are you going to raise \$50 for one fish farm? The children could be in charge of a table during coffee hour after worship and sell paper fish for \$1 each to be taped up on the display. Everyone might have fun making a gyotaku fish print.
- B) Hold a fish fry and donate the proceeds to a Heifer fish farm.
- C) Is this workshop a part of a *Fill the Ark* program or *Living Gift Market* where fish are part of the whole package? Create a booth for the sale of fish.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Lord, we ask that you open our hearts so that we might find a way to pass our gifts and talents onto others in need. We become part of the miracle when we choose to act on our faith. Amen.

Script for the Bible Study:

Every time the crowd says “I’m getting hungry”, the crowd should rub their tummies.

NARRATOR: After this, Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was caring for the sick.

PERSON #1: Did you hear that Jesus healed that lame man who has been sitting by the Sheep Gate for 38 years! Jesus said, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” And the man did!

CROWD: I’m getting hungry.

NARRATOR: Jesus went up the mountain and sat down with his disciples.

CROWD: I’m getting hungry.

NARRATOR: Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip,

JESUS: Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?

NARRATOR: He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do.

CROWD: I’m getting hungry.

PHILIP: Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.


NARRATOR: One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him,

ANDREW: There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?

CROWD: I’m getting hungry.

JESUS: Make the people sit down.

CROWD: I’m getting hungry.



NARRATOR: Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted.

CROWD: Wow! I'm full. I can't eat another thing.

NARRATOR: When they were satisfied, he told his disciples

JESUS: Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.

NARRATOR: So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.

PERSON #2: How did he do that? There must be 5,000 of us here. We all ate until we were full.

PERSON #3: Who is this guy?

PERSON #4: This is indeed the Messiah who is to come into the world.

STUDY *Feeding 5,000:*
A faith-based educational program



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Feeding 5000

WORKSHOP:

Cooking



www.heifer.org

OUTLINE – Cooking Workshop

Scripture: Genesis 6:5-9:17

Connection to Heifer:

One of the great salvation stories in the Bible is about Noah, the flood and his ark. Once God chose to save Noah from the flood, they had a relationship. It was a promise that both would keep at the relationship. It was a covenant that extends to how we treat our neighbor and our environment. Heifer mirrors this covenant by providing animals to people in need so they can have a new beginning.

Objectives:

- Understand that God seeks a faithful relationship between God and humankind.
- Explore the covenant between God and Noah. In response to this covenant we care for our neighbor and the earth in ways that are pleasing to God.
- Learn that Heifer mirrors this covenant by providing animals to people in need so they can have a new beginning.

Overview:

- Share the story of Noah's ark.
- Learn about the animals that Heifer International provides.
- Hear how animals have changed the lives of two Heifer animal recipients.
- Learn about and consider participating in Heifer's Fill the Ark program.
- Recreate the ark and animals with gingerbread or cake and cookies. Then auction, sell or share your arks for donations toward a Heifer Gift Ark.

Supplies: *Select the option that works best for your congregation*

Gingerbread ark

- Gingerbread dough ingredients (pre-made dough for the first week)
- Royal Frosting - several batches (recipe available online or in many cookbooks)
- Large sheet of heavy cardboard covered with foil or decorative paper for base
- Cookie sheets
- Parchment paper
- Cardboard patterns (pattern models are provided). You will need several sets if you will be making several arks in a class.



Cake ark

- Several cake mixes and assorted pans- see lesson for options
- Decorating frosting
- Large sheet of heavy cardboard covered with foil or decorative paper for base

Animals Cookies

- Pre-made animal cookies for the first week
- Sugar cookie or gingerbread dough ingredients (pre-made dough for the first week)
- Assorted animal cookie cutters available from craft stores or from several online sources

LESSON – Cooking Workshop

You will be creating a gingerbread or cake ark with lots of animals. At the end of the unit the ark will be sold to raise money for Heifer International.

- Share the story of Noah's ark with the children. This can be directly from the Bible or from a storybook from your church or public library. Remember to emphasize that the important aspect of the story is the establishment of the covenant between God and Noah.

The story of Noah's ark is a story of hope and salvation. People were making poor choices and God decided to start over again. Today people continue to make choices that put other people at risk of hunger and poverty. Heifer founder, Dan West is like a modern day Noah. When he saw hungry children he chose to do something about it. Like Noah, Dan West gathered animals to change the world. Heifer provides the living gift of animals that give people a second chance at life. Heifer animals provide life-saving nutrition and add protein to inadequate diets. Money earned from selling animal products such as cheese, eggs and woven goods helps families afford school for their children, as well as medicine and housing improvements that better the children's health.

The Mrs. Noah Affect

Noah's wife certainly helped keep the family afloat on the ark. Because of the living gift of animals from Heifer many women around the world have found new ways to help keep their families afloat too.

Florence Ndichia is one such woman. Like those who thought Noah was crazy, people around Florence thought she was crazy for partnering with Heifer to begin raising dairy cows.

Florence received training from Heifer and developed her pasture before getting her heifer. Since then her heifer had five calves! Florence has already passed on the gift by giving a calf to another deserving farmer.

Today, the Ndichiases jointly sponsor four of their children in secondary and high school. Income generated from Florence's milk sales has also enabled her to regularly participate in various savings and thrift societies, called njangis, and purchase a handcart for transporting forage from the farm to the animal shelter. Additionally, the regular application of the animal's manure on the farm's crops has greatly increased their yields. Overall the arrival of the Heifer cow has significantly improved the family's standard of living.

Florence's resolve and hard work proved her right. Just like Noah's family Florence's family has a great new beginning.


Have the class make a list of as many farm animals as they can. Noah would have had lots of other animals but concentrate on different farm animals.

- What does each animal provide for the farmer?

See how your list compares to the list of animals Heifer International provides. (See Resource Packet)

- What animals did you miss?





This is most likely because Heifer works with farmers around the world and different farmers need different animals. Camels for example are not given to farmers in the United States, but they are well received by farmers in Tanzania. Their unique ability to go without water and to carry heavy loads makes them perfect for this dry environment.

Heifer really works with local communities to determine which animal is best suited for their needs and environment. The other thing Heifer does is train farmers in how to keep their animal, their family and their environment healthy. As you make the ark and cookies continue to talk about the different animals referring to your list and the information about the animals Heifer provides.

Filling The Ark:

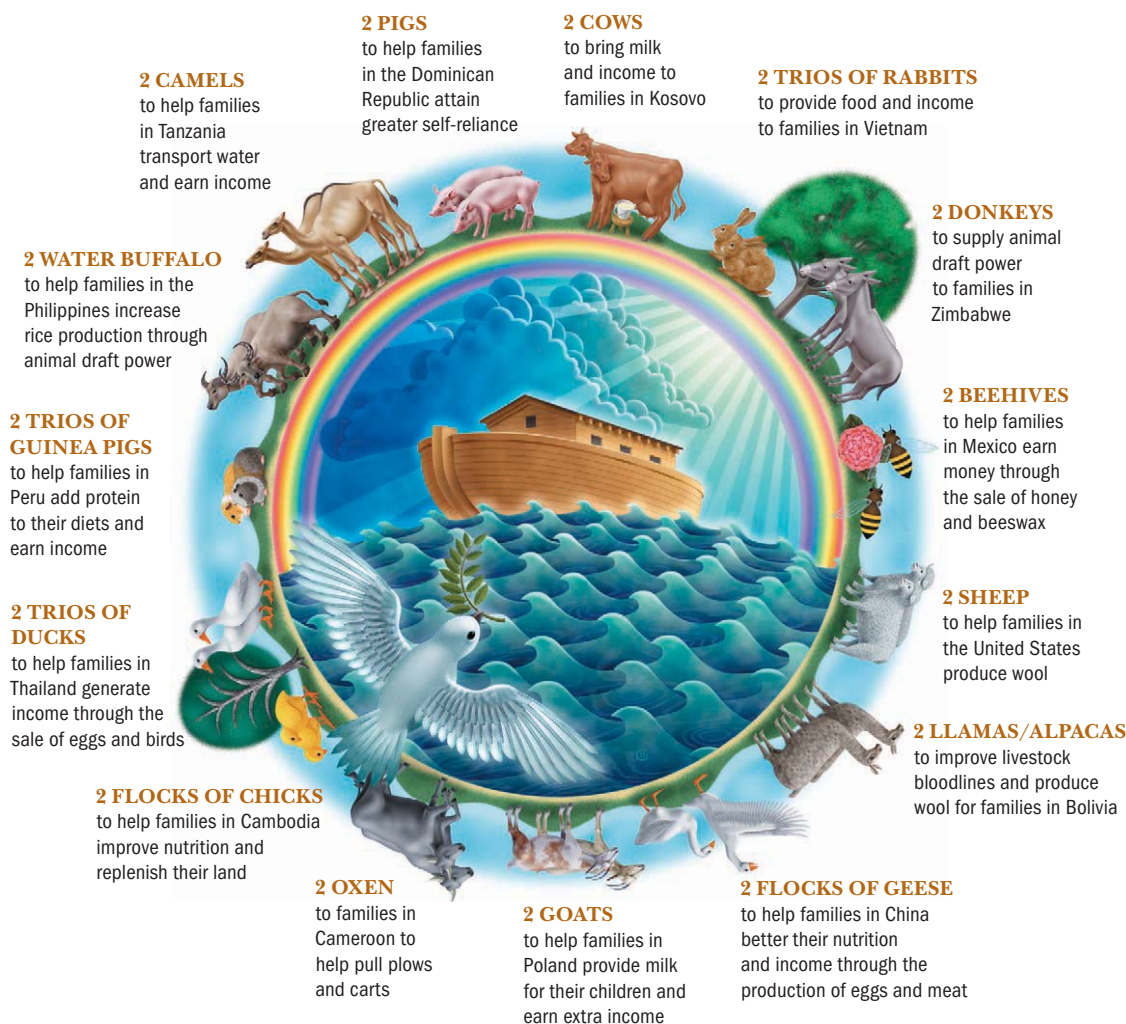
At the end of Noah's story there is a rainbow. Read Genesis 9: 8-17.

The covenant that God established with Noah is still in effect today. Unfortunately in our world many people struggle to have enough to eat and a place to call home. Extreme poverty affects billions of people each day. Heifer International works with local communities in more than 60 countries around the world, to improve the lives of families and their communities.

The rainbow above Noah's ark has been a symbol of hope for generations. Heifer International has a special program called Fill the Ark. Congregations are encouraged to raise \$5,000 to provide a Gift Ark. This can be developed as an ongoing project for a congregation until they reach the \$5,000 goal or animals can be purchased along the way as funds are raised. One of the ways to begin this fundraising is by creating a large gingerbread ark. This ark and the animals will be sold at the end of the unit to raise money toward the purchase of animals through Heifer.

What's in a Gift Ark?

\$5,000
The Ultimate Challenge



A gift to Heifer International is an extraordinary opportunity for you to change the world.

To help the greatest number of families move toward self-reliance, Heifer does not use its limited resources to track individual animals from donation to distribution to specific families. Instead, your gift supports the entire Heifer Mission. We use your gift where it can do the most good by combining it with the gifts of others to help transform entire communities. Heifer's unique community development model assisted more than 287,000 families last year with gifts of animals, training and passing on the gift. In addition, members of more than 423,000 additional families received special training in sustainable farming techniques and another 812,000 received significant benefits indirectly. Heifer International is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Let's get Cooking!

Heifer has a recipe for success by working with local farmers around the world. Your recipe for success is working with the members of your congregation to learn about Heifer and to find meaningful ways to support the work that Heifer does.

Follow the instructions for the type of ark you will be creating. While you are working continue to share information about Heifer animals. Decide if the participants will be allowed to make any animal or if each class will be assigned specific animal cookies to make.

ANIMALS PROVIDED BY HEIFER –Share information about the animals Heifer provides with the participants as they cut out and decorate cookies or wait for the gingerbread to cool. It is impossible to measure the value of the love shared from your congregation to the recipients of the living gifts from Heifer. The gift not only improves the life of the farmer, it also improves the lives of the families who receive a pass on and eventually the whole community!

Were there spelling bees on Noah's Ark?

Maybe and maybe not, but there are spelling bees in the Armenian community of Vayots Dzor Marz. There lives the Hovsepyan family. They received the living gift of bees in 2006 when they became involved in Heifer's "Beekeeping to Support Education." The Hovsepyan family has seven members. There are two parents Toros and Marina, and an 83-year old grandmother Marinos, and there are four children, Anahit, Mery, Davit and Astghik.

Anahit is 26 years old and has been unable to find a job in her rural community. The other children attend school. Mery and Davit are students at Gitelik Universtiy, the only private and reputable university in Yeghegnadzor. Higher education is expensive, so tuition costs have greatly reduced the family budget. Astghik is 15 and studies at the village school.

Toros, aware of the physical as well as financial benefit of hives said, 'We worked hard all these years, and have been able to double our number of beehives so that, after we completed our pass on obligation, we are still able to produce honey for our own consumption, as well as to sell for profit to support the children's studies at Gitelik Universtiy. Selling honey has made it possible for us to improve our nutrition. Everyone in my family knows how useful honey is for human health. We hope to increase our honey-generated income in a few years time.'

So you see bees have helped the Hovsepyan children learn much more than spelling!

GINGERBREAD ARK

The skill and experience of your facilitator should determine the complexity of the ark you make. Arks can be 3-dimensional or flat cookies. There are commercially available ark cookie cutters that would work well with younger children.

For the experienced baker:

- Select a recipe of your choice. It is best if you find a recipe that does not contain eggs. This reduces the risk of salmonella. You could also use an egg substitute.
- Make dough. Chill if necessary but know that room temperature dough rolls well for children.
- Optional: gather supplies to make additional dough in class.
- Cut pieces of parchment paper the size of your cookie sheets.

In class:

Optional: Make dough with participants – it will be used for the next group.

- Have children roll dough between large pieces of parchment paper.
- Cut the dough to be ¼” smaller than your cookie sheets.
- Transfer dough from large sheets of parchment paper to the cookie sheet size paper.
- With the dough on the parchment paper place it on the cookie sheet.
- Lay patterns on the dough leaving approximately 1/2” between pieces.
- Using a knife, cut out patterns and remove the excess dough.

Bake per recipe instructions.

A few minutes before the dough is finished remove pans from the oven and lay patterns on the cookies. Trim any excess so the pieces will fit nicely together when finished. This is much easier than trying to trim them when they are hard.

Return to oven and finish baking.

Remove the cookies and cool.

To Assemble:

After all the pieces are cooled (ark base, deck, sides, cabin pieces, roof pieces) assemble in the following manner using royal frosting (recipe is available on line and in many cookbooks). You may want to tint the frosting to match the color of the dough. Adding brown or tan frosting color, or a small amount of cinnamon can do this.

1. Make the box from the base pieces, piping frosting along edges to ensure a good attachment. You may want to secure the box to the cardboard base you have prepared
2. Secure deck to the top of the box.
3. Attach the sides of the ark to the side of the box with the deck between them.
4. Put the sides and front of the cabin together and attach to the deck with frosting.
5. When the sides and front are dry add the roof sections one at a time allowing them to dry securely.

For the Novice Baker:

Instead of making a truly three-dimensional ark, make an ark from flat cookies. You can use commercially available cookie cutters or the pattern provided. Cut, bake and decorate the cookies while you talk about the animals provided by Heifer International.

ANIMAL COOKIES

- Have the animal cookies and dough made in advance for the first week.
- Use assorted animal shape cookie cutters – select farm animals rather than general animals.
- While these cookies are baking make up dough for next week.
- Decorate the pre-baked cookies and talk about the animals provided by Heifer.
- Each participant needs to make 3 or more cookies
 - Cookies to raise money for Heifer
 - Cookies to pass on to a member of the congregation just like the farmers pass on the gift of an animal to another deserving farmer
 - Cookies for themselves

The children may eat a cookie but they must also leave cookies to go with the ark.

CAKE ARK

Pound cake would be a good choice for the ark as it is a firm solid cake. You will need to be an experienced cake decorator to do this project.

Begin by determining which pans you have and how they might be fashioned into an ark.

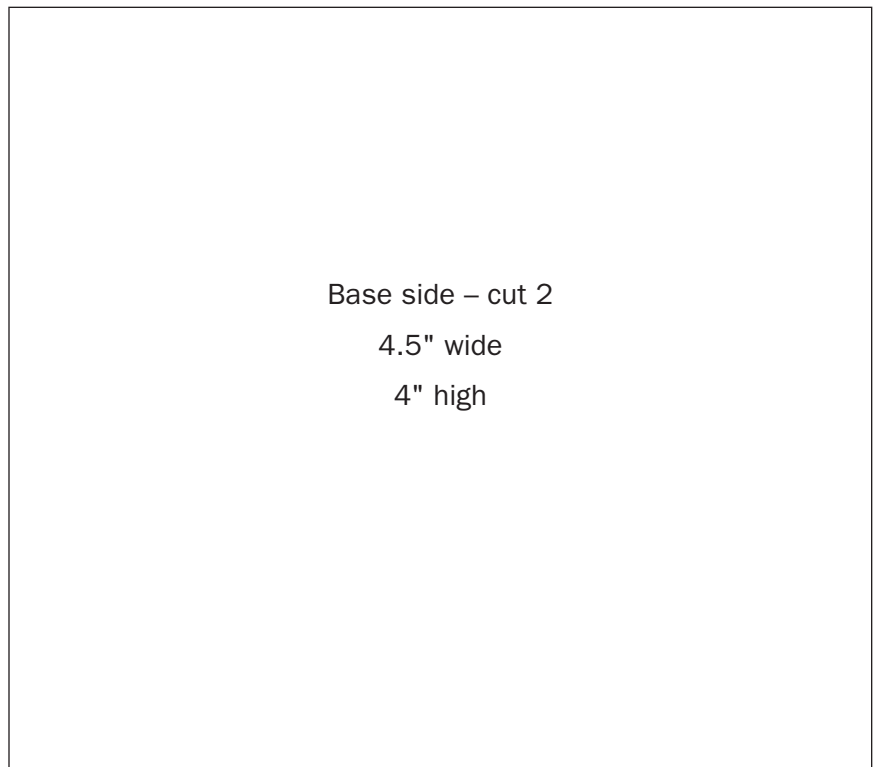
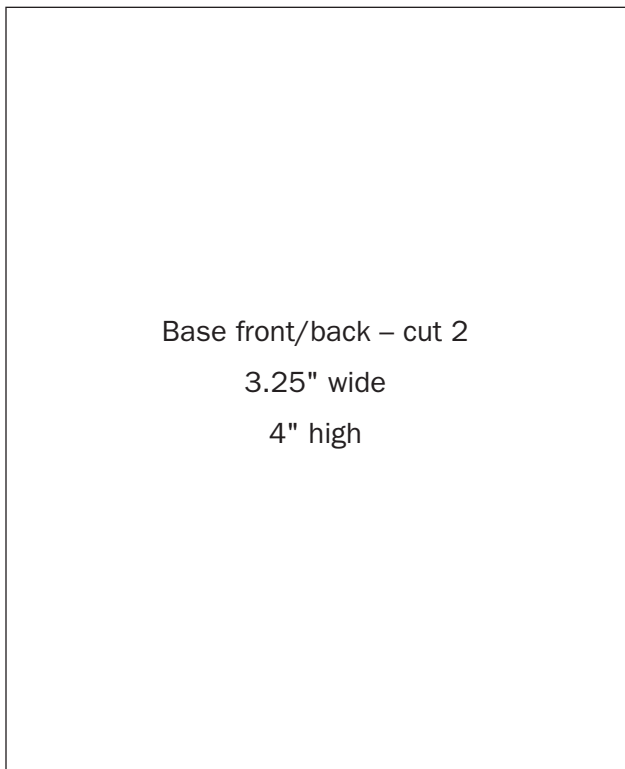
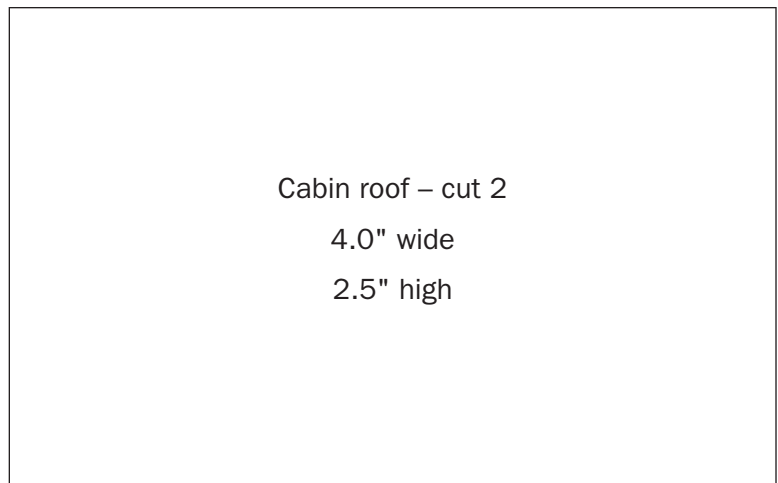
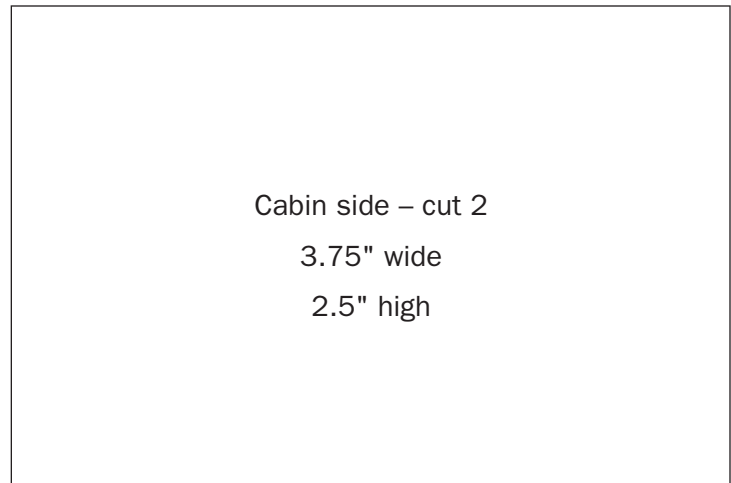
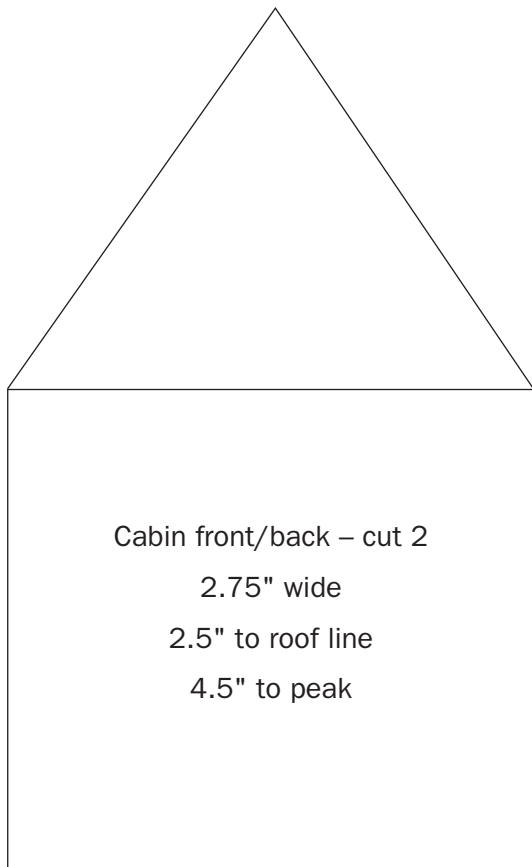
- 10" tube pans can be used to create two ark bases. When the cake is cooled cut it in half creating two half circles. Trim the rounded edge so the cake can stand up.
- 8" or 9" round pans can work. Cut the cake in half to create two half circles. Trim the rounded edge so the cake can stand up. Use frosting to stick the two halves together to make a solid base.
- Mini loaf pans (approximately 2x5) work well to create the cabin.
- Use graham crackers for the roof and ramp.

Bake the cakes and be ready to assemble them with the children. You can bake the cakes ahead and freeze them. Be sure they are thoroughly thawed before you begin to decorate or the frosting will slide off as the cake thaws.

Shape the base and attach it to the cardboard or plywood base with additional frosting. Add the cabin and the roof pieces using frosting to "glue" the pieces in place. Decorate the cake once the cake is assembled. Add as many or few details as you want.

Plastic freezer bags make good cake decorating tools. Fill the bag half way with frosting. Force the air out and close the bag. Cut off the corner of the bag so the frosting can be squeezed out.

Advertise your ark sale. If there is any additional time or you have too many children to be working on the baking all at once, have them make posters for the final sale of the ark. Older children and families might consider writing up an announcement for your Sunday bulletin or newsletter.

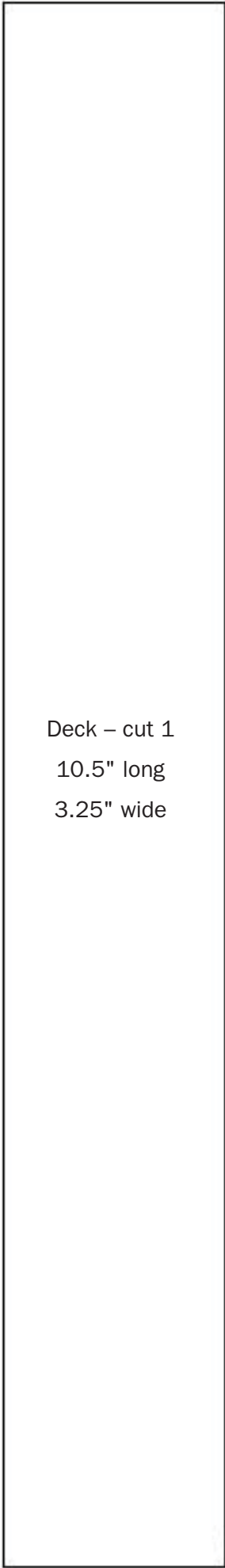




Ark sides – cut 2

Approximately 11" wide
5" high

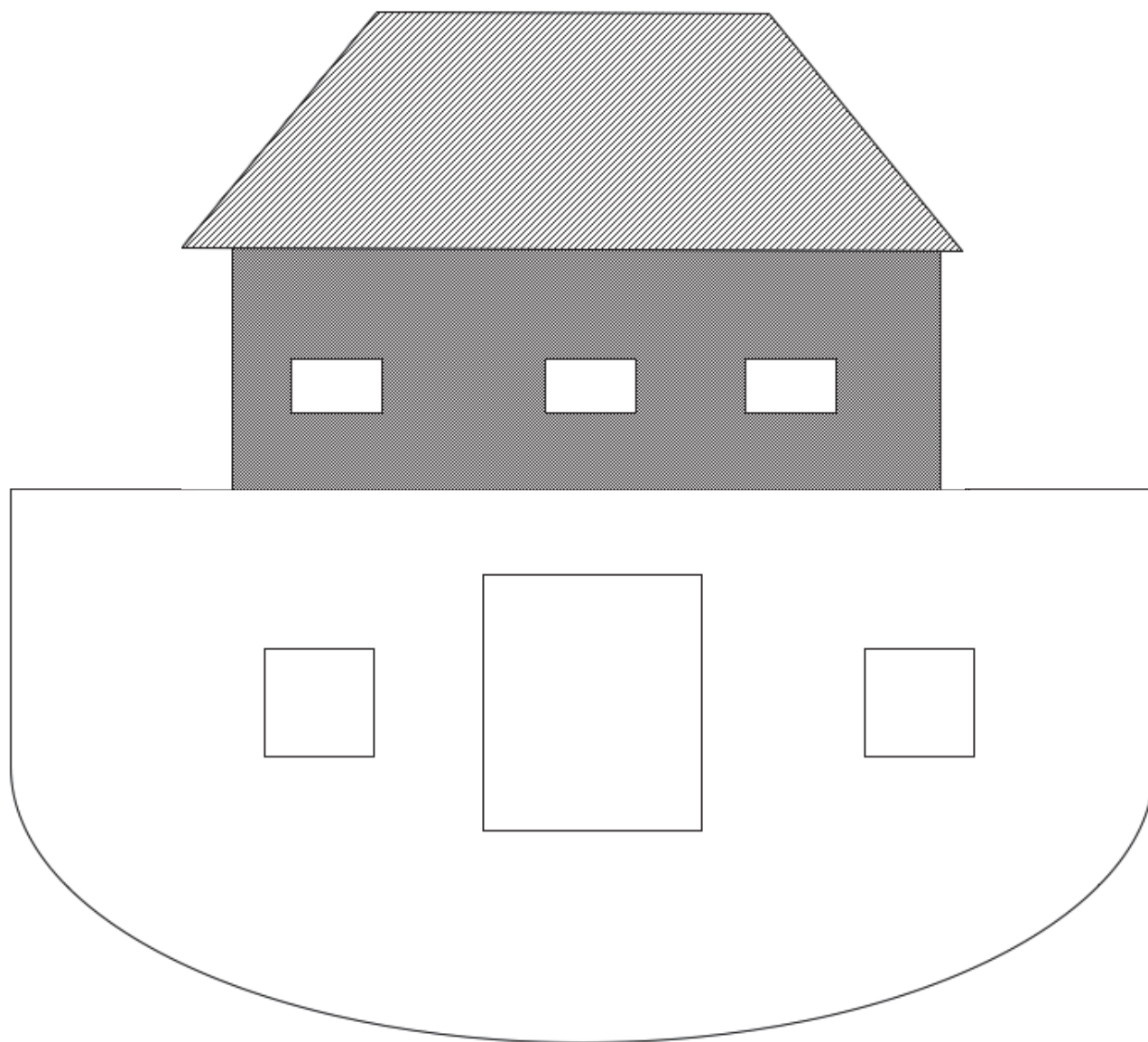
Cut curved edge along dotted line to make a
flat edge to help stabilize the ark.



Deck – cut 1
10.5" long
3.25" wide

Cookie Ark:

Use the following pattern or a commercially available cookie cutter to make cookie arks.



Feeding 5000

WORKSHOP:

Drama



www.heifer.org

OUTLINE – Drama Workshop

Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Connection to Heifer:

The Lord used Ezekiel to proclaim a new life for the people of Israel who were in exile from their homeland. The imagery is of new life being breathed into a valley of dry bones. Supporters of Heifer help breathe new life into struggling families around the world. Through the gift of livestock and training, they have the chance to feed themselves, acquire income and then pass on the gift to others, thus breathing new life into a whole community.

Objectives:

- Ezekiel was an Old Testament prophet proclaiming the word of the Lord.
- Ezekiel spoke to the people of Israel who were in exile in Assyria and Babylon.
- Ezekiel used the imagery of breathing life into a valley of dry bones to forecast the renewal of spirit in the people of Israel.
- Heifer creates a renewal of spirit by providing the means for families to be self-sufficient.

Overview:

- Learn the story of Ezekiel and his vision of the valley of dry bones.
- Learn how Heifer is active in China, in particular in providing rabbits to small-scale farmers.
- Enact a drama using the African-American spiritual, “Dry Bones,” linking the Ezekiel story to Heifer.

Supplies:

- Class set of Bibles
- Costumes:
 - Dan West costume – a man’s suitcoat
 - Three Halloween Trick of Treater costumes, one of which is a skeleton
 - Biblical costumes – one for Ezekiel and several for Israelites
 - Soldier/s
 - King of Babylon
 - Skeletons (three)
 - Black sweatsuits/leotards
 - Plastic glow-in-the-dark skeletons
www.orientaltrading.com #IN 25/730 @ \$5.99
Plastic Life-Size Glow-in-the-Dark Skeleton
- Props
 - Doorway
 - Hand with finger pointing up and “I AM” written on it

- Idol
- The word “Babylon” on a sign
- Song: “Dry Bones” Available at many public libraries and at http://www.weesing.com/single_product.cfm?product_id=23
- CD/tape player
- Copies of script (four)

Heifer References:

- *The Gift: A World Solution to Hunger and Poverty*

Advance Preparation:

- The script is written for ghost and witch trick-or-treaters. It can be edited for whatever costumes are being used.
- Ponder performing this for the congregation and using black-light.
- Make the props ahead of time and arrange them on the stage with the door in the middle, the “I AM” and Idol prop on the left, and the Babylon sign on the right. Arrange the three skeletons along the front of the stage.
- Make the skeleton costumes. Disconnect the skeleton pieces and add Velcro, matching with Velcro pieces on the sweat suits. It is very effective during the song to build the bone body up during the chorus, “The foot bone’s connected to the leg bone”. At the refrain “Dem bones, dem bones gonna walk aroun’”, the body of bones jumps around. (Imagine the hysteria.) At the second chorus, the bones are deconstructed. Line up the bones on the floor in order. It is helpful if the person standing in the sweat suit can have one or two other people attach the bones so that they can keep up with the music.
- Put numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 on four 8.5 x 11 paper. Tape to wall at four corners of the room.

LESSON – Drama Workshop

Introduction:

Arrange the bones of one skeleton on the floor before the class comes in.

Could these bones come to life? Why or why not?

What if they were real bones? Could they come to life? Why or why not?

Imagine a time when life is really hard. The spirits of everyone are low. It's like there is no life in the very bones of the people. They were like dry bones.

Ezekiel and the Valley of Dry Bones:

There were many times in the history of Israel when the Israelites felt like they were a shattered and scattered people. One of the times was about 500 years before Jesus came to Earth. They were attacked by Babylon and sent away from their homeland into exile.

- We are going to experience what happened to the people of Israel that made them feel like dry bones.
- One quarter of the group go to corner #1 and be very quiet: you are the Assyrians.
- One quarter of the group go to corner #2 and be very quiet: you are the Babylonians.
- Everyone else gather in the middle of the room. You are the United Kingdom of Israel under the great King David. *Show me how strong you are.*
- You started to bicker among yourselves (*show some bickering*) and you split apart. One half of the group goes to corner #3 of the room. You are Israel. The other half go to corner #4. You are Judah, the home of Jerusalem.
- The prophet, Ezekiel, spoke for the Lord. He said, “You are worshipping idols.” *Bow to various objects in the room.* “You are forgetting to care for the poor and the widows and the orphans.” *Walk around with your noses in the air.*
- When Assyria, a country to the east, grew in power, it attacked Israel. Israel immediately surrendered. *The group in corner #1 should come over to the Israelites in corner #3 and bring them back to corner #1.*
- Babylon grew strong and attacked Judah and Jerusalem. The Judeans immediately surrendered and the Babylonians destroyed the Temple. *The group in corner #2 should come over to the Judeans in corner #4 and bring them back to corner #2.*
- This is known as the exile. The people of Israel and Judah were no longer in their Promised Land. *Look sad.* They felt abandoned by their Lord. *Look abandoned. Look wilted, as if your muscles can no longer hold up your bones.* They felt like dry bones, lifeless, having no purpose. And they longed to return to their beloved Jerusalem. They remembered their old stories of faith, the stories of God's saving hand as they escaped slavery in Egypt. They yearned for Jerusalem. *Look as if you are yearning for something.*
- Here is where Ezekiel had a vision. He dreamed that there was a valley of dry bones and the Lord breathed on them, giving them new life. *Dance as if you have been granted new life to those tired old bones.*
- In 571 BC, the Jews were able to return to Jerusalem and they rebuilt the Temple. *Both the Jews in Assyria and in Babylon return to corner #4. Dance as if you are shining in the glory of God.*

That is the story of Ezekiel. His famous vision was made into a song called “Dem Dry Bones”. While it seems a simple song, it tells the story of how God breathed life into a lifeless people. Slaves who understood what it was like to live in a body that was sapped of its life fluids and had no spirit sang it in the plantation fields. But in the process of singing this song, a person was able to remember that God always breathes new life into a yearning spirit.

Play the song. Teach the song to the class.

Heifer China and Rabbits:

Heifer’s mission is to breathe new life into people who can’t make ends meet. They live in areas throughout the world where there aren’t enough resources available to allow them to have enough food or income to support themselves. Children often do not go to school because they must spend their days looking for food in the countryside.

One of the places that Heifer is active is in China. Twenty percent of the world’s population lives in China (one out of five) but only seven percent of that land is suitable to be farmed. “Too many people with too little land,” say officials from Da Yi County in Sichuan. It is a very harsh land for both animals and humans – truly a valley of dry bones. Heifer and the native population had to find an animal that could work in that dry land and feed lots of people.

What animal is known to produce lots of offspring? Rabbits! In a nation of small-scale farms, rabbits are well suited to local production. They provide meat for the family. They can be sold to neighbors and the money can be used for other food, clothing, home improvement and education.

In 1985, Heifer introduced 105 Californian and New Zealand White rabbits to four families through the DaYi County Rabbit Project in Sichuan Province. In exchange for the animals, each family agreed to pass on five offspring rabbits to neighbors. Over the next 13 years, the initial number of rabbits exploded into more than 16,000, helping 2,750 families feed themselves and become self-reliant. This project is now so successful that it has a training school for rabbit farmers and has become a source of high quality rabbit meat and breeding stock for 15 provinces.

Recipients of Heifer International animals are required to “pass on the gift” – to share one or more of the animal’s offspring. Before anyone can receive a pass-on, he or she must qualify by learning how to care for the animal and making proper provision for shelter, food and water. It is a serious responsibility to both care for the animals and pass on offspring. The recipient must sign a contract. Even if he or she is illiterate and doesn’t know how to write, a thumbprint is accepted as a way to agree to the responsibility.

A \$60 donation to Heifer provides project partners with a male and two female rabbits as well as training. These can produce up to 30 offspring a year, so there’s a steady supply of nutrition and income. Rabbits produce a litter after only 31 days of pregnancy and they can have four litters of 8-10 in a year.

Mrs. Ying had to rent a plot to grow grain for her eight family members, her hog and her chickens. There was scarcely enough for everyone to eat one meal a day. That changed when she became a Heifer partner and received rabbits. She passed on offspring to ten families. She decided to specialize in breeding and soon was supplying 300 local farmers with breeder rabbits and technical services. The income from her rabbits gave her and her husband the money to start a metal mold factory, making molds for doors, windows and lamps. They employ their sons, daughter-in-law and 12 villagers. They went from poverty to business owners; from a valley of dry bones to full bellies and healthy bodies all with the help of hard work, imagination and Heifer rabbits. —From *Animal Crackers* p. 30.



You do the Math:

If a project partner in Sichuan, China, received a trio of Heifer rabbits—a buck and two does—and the two does each produced litters of eight kits four times a year, how many offspring would there be in 10 years? 640. Heifer provided rabbits to 10 families in Sichuan in 1983 and more than 2,000 families have benefited as a result.

Put on a Drama:

Select people for the following roles and hand out the costumes:

- Dan West
- Three Halloween trick-or-treaters
- Ezekiel and Israelites
- King of Babylon and Soldiers
- Skeletons and assistants

Hand out the scripts (page 6-7) and arrange the players on stage with the trick-or-treaters in the middle, Ezekiel and the Israelites on the left and the King of Babylon and the soldiers on the right. The skeleton bones are arranged in order in the front; those players can sit by the bones until the song starts. Dan West opens and closes the drama—he stands in front and off to one side.

Run through the script once as a preview. The script is so simple that only the trick-or-treaters will need it when performed the second time through.

Fundraising Opportunities:

1. Do the bunny hop and ask each participant in line to donate 50 cents.
2. Create your own one-day farmer's market. At the height of growing season, encourage parishioners to bring in their excess fresh produce. The proceeds from the sale go to Heifer.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Lord, we all experience the valleys of dry bones in our lives. Please open our awareness to your presence so that we ask to be a part of your kingdom. We ask to be an instrument of your peace. Amen.

Script and Song:

DAN WEST: Good morning. I'm Dan West, the founder of Heifer Project International and I approve this message. By helping others help themselves, we live out our faith, breathing new life into dry bones. Let the show begin!

GHOST: Hi. Great costume!

WITCH: Yah, I've wanted to be a witch for a long time. I love Halloween: all of this candy! And I love figuring out my costume. Hey, that's a cool skeleton costume!

SKELETON: Yah, it glows in the dark!



(All three approach the door.)

ALL THREE: Trick or Treat!

WITCH: You know, I learned about skeletons in Sunday School.

GHOST: There are no skeletons in Sunday School.

WITCH: Yah. It's in the story of Ezekiel. It takes place during a time when the people of Israel had turned away from the Lord.

(Ezekiel holds up the "I AM" prop while one Israelite holds up the Idol prop while the others bow to both.)

SKELETON: So, what happened to them? Did they turn into skeletons or something?

WITCH: Kind of. They stopped listening to the prophets who spoke for God. They started to worship the gods of the other people in the land. So they weren't united in their faith.

SKELETON: Yah, so they turned into skeletons, right?

WITCH: No, not yet. The King of Babylon decided to expand his empire. He attacked Israel and the Israelites were too weak to defend themselves.

(The King of Babylon and soldiers run across stage, attack the Israelites and bring them back to the right under the Babylon sign.)

GHOST: Don't tell me. The Israelites turned into skeletons.

SKELETON: I knew it!

WITCH: Yep! The Babylonians destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem. The Israelites were far away from their homeland. They felt all dried up. God went to an old buddy named Ezekiel, showed him a valley of dry bones and told him to say,

EZEKIEL: "Hear the word of the Lord! I will breathe life into you, and you will come alive. And you will know that I am the Lord!"

SKELETON: (Dance around) Hey, look at me! I'm dancing!

(If using black lights, turn off room lights and turn on the black light.) Start the song on the player. The assistants put the bones on the skeleton bodies in the order played in the song. When the song sings, "Dem bones, dem bones, gonna walk around", the skeletons start to dance.

SKELETON: That's a great story! Dem bones, dem bones gonna walk around (while dancing).

DAN WEST: Hi. Heifer International sponsored this play. Whenever I was offered dessert, I would reply, "I will not have cake as long as there are those in the world who don't have bread to eat." We breathe new life into every family who gets a heifer, a pig, a rabbit, a fish, a tree, a goat – there are so many. This is how I live my life. I go to church, read the Bible and try to live a Christian life. Join me in nourishing new life in others by getting involved in Heifer Project International.

STUDY *Feeding 5,000:*
A faith-based educational program



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Feeding 5000

WORKSHOP:

Games



www.heifer.org

OUTLINE – Games Workshop

Scripture: The Great Commandment

Matthew 22:34-40, Mark 12:28-34, Luke 10:25-28

Connection to Heifer:

There are two pillars to the Great Commandment: love God and love your neighbor as yourself. Heifer is founded on the idea of helping one's neighbor, who then helps a neighbor, who then helps a neighbor, until the entire community is lifted out of poverty.

Objectives:

- Learn that Jesus gave us the Great Commandment. You only need to know two things to live in right relationship with God:
 - Love God.
 - Love your neighbor as yourself.
- Learn how Heifer works with people around the world to live out love for neighbors.
- Learn how your congregation can show love for neighbors by supporting Heifer International through the purchase of animals.

Overview:

- Learn about the Great Commandment and the connection to Heifer International.
- Using balloons, experience the power of neighbors to support each other.
- Create a circle of support and learn how Heifer works in balance with the local community.
- Use a “distribution solution” to transport “resources” from one community to the other.
- Challenge the congregation to create a circle of support through donations to Heifer.

Supplies:

Option 1: Balloon Relay

- Eight- or nine-inch round balloons, blown up – you will want to have a lot of them and paper bags or large boxes to hold the balloons for each group
- One sheet of thin masonite or thick plywood with a smooth surface, approximately 1 square yard each (3x3)
- Heifer's Cornerstones for Just and Sustainable Development (See Resource Packet)

Option 2: Heifer Circle of Support

- Eight Ribbons—smooth and approximately ½-inch wide. They should be 4 to 5 feet in length with words on them per instruction (approximately 50 feet needed)
- Tape
- Long ribbon a little longer than the circumference of the circle of students. Approximately 36 feet
- Hula hoop



Option 3: Distribution Solution

- Plastic colander with rather large openings and a flat bottom.
- 40-feet of string divided into four equal sections—thread the string through the colander per the diagram. Tie a small knot at the end of the string so it cannot be pulled out.
- Sticky notes – 1.5"x2" work well
- Pens
- For young children use small stuffed animals
- Older children and adults can use several two-liter bottles with tops. Fill each bottle with different amounts of water
- Paper with "Farmer" written on it

In Advance:

Write the 12 Cornerstones on 12 balloons and the different animals that Heifer provides on other balloons. You can have additional balloons with either your Church name or the children's names. These represent all the donors who support the work of Heifer.

LESSON – Games Workshop

The Great Commandment: Read any of the scripture referenced above from the translation of the Bible that your congregation uses.

These two commandments, found in three of the four Gospels, convey Jesus' message to the world. They restate the ancient law from Deuteronomy known as the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4-6). In Jesus' time, every Jew would have known these verses. Even today this ancient text can be found in the mezuzahs that are in many Jewish homes. The challenge then and now is to live out the scriptures, not to just know them.

The words of the prophets Jeremiah (Jeremiah 31:33) and Micah (Micah 6:8) reinforce Jesus' statement that the greatest commandment was to love God with all that you have and to love your neighbor as yourself. The scriptures are to be in your heart at all times. If you act out of love, then you see each person as a child of God, worthy of love. You don't want to do anything that would harm your neighbor. This is doing the will of God. Heifer International is based on this very principle. Love and respect for all people is lived out in their organization and work.

The activities in this lesson explore the way that Heifer helps to change the lives of farmers around the world. Select from any or all of the activities depending on the age group of the participants and the length of your program.

OPTION 1: Balloon Relay

The object of this activity is to work together to transport balloons from one end of the room to the other and then use them to support the weight of the group. Use the balloons with the Cornerstones and animals for this activity.

Divide your class into two or three groups and gather at one end of the room.

At the opposite end of the room place the sheet of Masonite and a box or bag to contain the balloons.

Heifer has some concepts that guide the way that they help people around the world. These are called Cornerstones. Different projects emphasize selected Cornerstones based on the needs of the community. Each group will have several Cornerstone balloons. As you divide the balloons evenly for each group, share information about each Cornerstone from the Resource Packet.

Heifer International provides the gift of animals to help farmers around the world feed their families and generate income to send their children to school. Animals are chosen for farmers in different countries based on their needs, community and environment.

Each group will get several animal balloons. Divide the animal balloons and share, or have the children share, information about the animals. (See Resource Packet)

Each group should form two lines, as they will need to transport the balloons in pairs. If you have a very small group you can challenge them to move all the balloons in five minutes using the list of transportation methods. If they accomplish this see if they can set a shorter time and meet that time.

- The first pair should pick up a balloon. They will have to carry the balloon between their right elbows to the opposite side of the room. They can then deposit the balloon in the bag or box provided. They should then run back and tag the second pair.
- The second pair should pick up a balloon and carry it between their left pointer fingers (no other fingers please!) Repeat what the first pair did.

- The third pair should pick up a balloon and carry it between their left knees.
- The fourth pair should carry the balloon between their hips.
- The fifth pair should carry the balloon between their forearms.
- Make up additional transportation methods as needed. Have fun!

Different methods were used to move the balloons from one end of the room to another. Heifer uses different methods and techniques and animals to help people get to the same goal. This is because no two communities are the same. Each has different strengths and needs and yet the goal is always the same: sustainable changes that improve their lives.

Taking a Stand with Heifer

When all the balloons are at the opposite end of the room in their containers the entire team should go to that end of the room. The next part of the activity will be to place the balloons under the Masonite and have one or more children stand on the board with the fewest balloons popping. Make sure there are plenty of spotters.

When they are successful, ask them to shout out, “Love your neighbor as yourself!”

Reflection

It seems as if the balloons won't hold up a person, certainly if only one balloon were under the Masonite it would pop.

- Why do you think it works?
- Was it easy to get the balloons to stay under the Masonite?
- How can you relate this activity to the Great Commandment and Heifer's work in communities?

The person/s supported by the balloons was supported because all the balloons worked together. The pressure was distributed to all the balloons; no one balloon had to carry all the weight alone. When we recognize that all people are our neighbors, we can work together to support one another as we strive to live as God wishes; filled with love. Heifer knows that when we all work together—local congregations, individuals, Heifer staff and the farmers—great things can happen.

Pass on the Gift is a very important aspect of Heifer's work in that each partner farmer commits to pass on the gift of a living animal to another farmer in need. In this way the farmers demonstrate their love for their neighbors. Younger children may want to take a balloon for themselves at the end of class. If this is part of the plan make sure there are enough balloons for each participant to take two—one to keep and one to give to someone else just—like Heifer's strategy of Passing on the Gift.

Heifer helps people work together

Goats are friendly creatures that nuzzle your hand and nibble your buttons – they're curious to find out all about you. Sometimes, Heifer goats build friendships where there were only bad feelings before.

That's what happened in Albania. An unsettled political situation and economic hardship had everyone on edge, especially in Alarup, a mountain village where Heifer had a goat-development project. People there depend on goats as a primary source of income.

Two families, both members of the Heifer group, had been feuding over politics for decades. Things came to a head when a young man from one family and a young woman from the other wanted to get married. Their families refused, and the unhappy young woman was married off to a lad from another village.

Twenty years later at a Heifer group meeting, the two saw each other again. How would the families react? The Heifer group came to a wise decision. "We will pass on the offspring of our gift goats to these two families first," they said. A longstanding feud ended; the villagers cheered, and, from all appearances, the goats were happy too!

OPTION 2: Heifer Circle of Support

Advanced Preparation:

<u>Write these words on the Ribbon</u>	<u>Share this information with the participant</u>
Generosity	There is an important relationship between donors to Heifer and the farmers who receive the living gifts. Farmers all pledge to Pass on the Gift to another farmer.
Agroecology	Farming practices that are ecologically sound are shared so land can be improved in a sustainable way.
Nutrition	Through Heifer's living gift of an animal the nutrition of the farmer and community are improved.
Training	Heifer provides extensive training and support for all project participants. For many participants, the training is as important as the animals they receive, and it is not unusual for whole villages to attend training sessions.
Poverty	Approximately 1.4 billion people live on \$1.25 a day. Many of these people live in rural, farm communities.
Lack of education	Many people cannot afford to go to school and cannot get the education they need to improve their lives.
Poor land	Poor land quality does not allow farmers to grow crops or support animals or their family.
Hunger	Hunger affects people's ability to live their lives to the fullest. Finding enough food and water consumes the vast resources and energy for many families around the world.

- Tie the ribbons onto the hula-hoop per the diagram. Use tape to secure them evenly around the hoop.
- Cut all the ribbons to an equal length.

Exploration

Show the children a bicycle wheel (preferably from a two wheel bike)

- Have them identify the parts - hub (center), spokes and rim.
- Could the wheel work with only two of these parts?
- Why does it have to be all three parts?
- What would happen if the rim was crooked or the spokes were bent or the hub was not round?
- Would the wheel roll well?

When a bike mechanic builds a bike wheel he or she assembles the pieces. Then the real work begins. The wheel must be balanced. The mechanic makes sure that the rim is true (perfectly round). Using simple tools the mechanic adjusts the tension on each spoke until they are all even. One way to check if this is done correctly is to “pluck” the spokes just like you would pluck a guitar or stringed instrument. A well-balanced wheel is in harmony. The hub, spokes and rim all work together to make the wheel roll smoothly after the mechanic has done the creative work.

This game will explore some of the issues faced by poor farmers and the kinds of support provided by Heifer. Half of the circle has ribbons that are issues faced by the farmers. The other half of the circle has ways that Heifer helps address these specific issues. Heifer International's goal is to create a circle of support for the farmers. The farmer and his/her family is the center of the circle. Everything that is done is intended to provide this farmer with the ability to break the cycle of poverty and become more self sufficient in a sustainable way.

Heifer gifts a farmer with an animal that is suited to the environment. They also provide training on how to keep the animal healthy, how to manage the income generated by the animal products, how to use animal manure, how to use other sustainable agricultural practices and ongoing support to help the farmer move from poverty to self-sufficiency. Through Passing on the Gift the first farmer moves from the center of the circle to the support side of the circle and another farmer takes his/her place. In this way an ever increasing number of people's lives are changed by the efforts of Heifer International.

You will need a minimum of nine participants for this activity.

- One person is the farmer and stands in the middle of the hula hoop.
- Four people represent other farmers in the area who will be receiving a pass on. They should take hold of the ribbons with the words, *lack of education, hunger, poor land, and poverty*.
- Four people represent Heifer project support. They should take hold of the ribbons with the words, *training, generosity, agroecology, nutrition*.
- The long ribbon will be tied around the entire circle.

Action

Have the farmer hold up the hula hoop.

Everyone should pull gently on their ribbon to help lift the hula hoop.

Working together, adjust the tension on the ribbons so that the farmer can let go of the hoop.

Place the long ribbon along the small of the back of the ribbon holders. Tie it together. This ribbon represents the encircling love of God and interconnected relationship of all people to one another. It is the physical presence of the Great Commandment.

Challenge

Have people in the circle change places and keep the ribbon in place. When we love God with everything we have we are moved to love our neighbor. This love always comes full circle.

When the ribbons hold up the center circle the issues of poverty no longer hold the farmer back and hunger and can move to become a support to another farmer. This is an important part of all the work that Heifer does. Farmers pass on the living gift of offspring from their animals to another deserving farmer.

If you have more than nine participants:

Have the farmer step out of the center and take the place of one of the Heifer project support people.

Have a new farmer come to the center.

Repeat the process until “farmers” have replaced all the Heifer project support people.

Reflection

For those who were farmers what did it feel like to be able to let go of the hula hoop?

- Where in the circle are we as individuals and a congregation?
- Which issue concerns you the most?
- Which area of support excites you the most?
- How can you pass on this experience to others in your family or congregation?

I asked God for all things, that I might enjoy life. God gave me life, that I might enjoy all things.

—Gertrude Freiin von Le Fort (novelist) 1876-1971

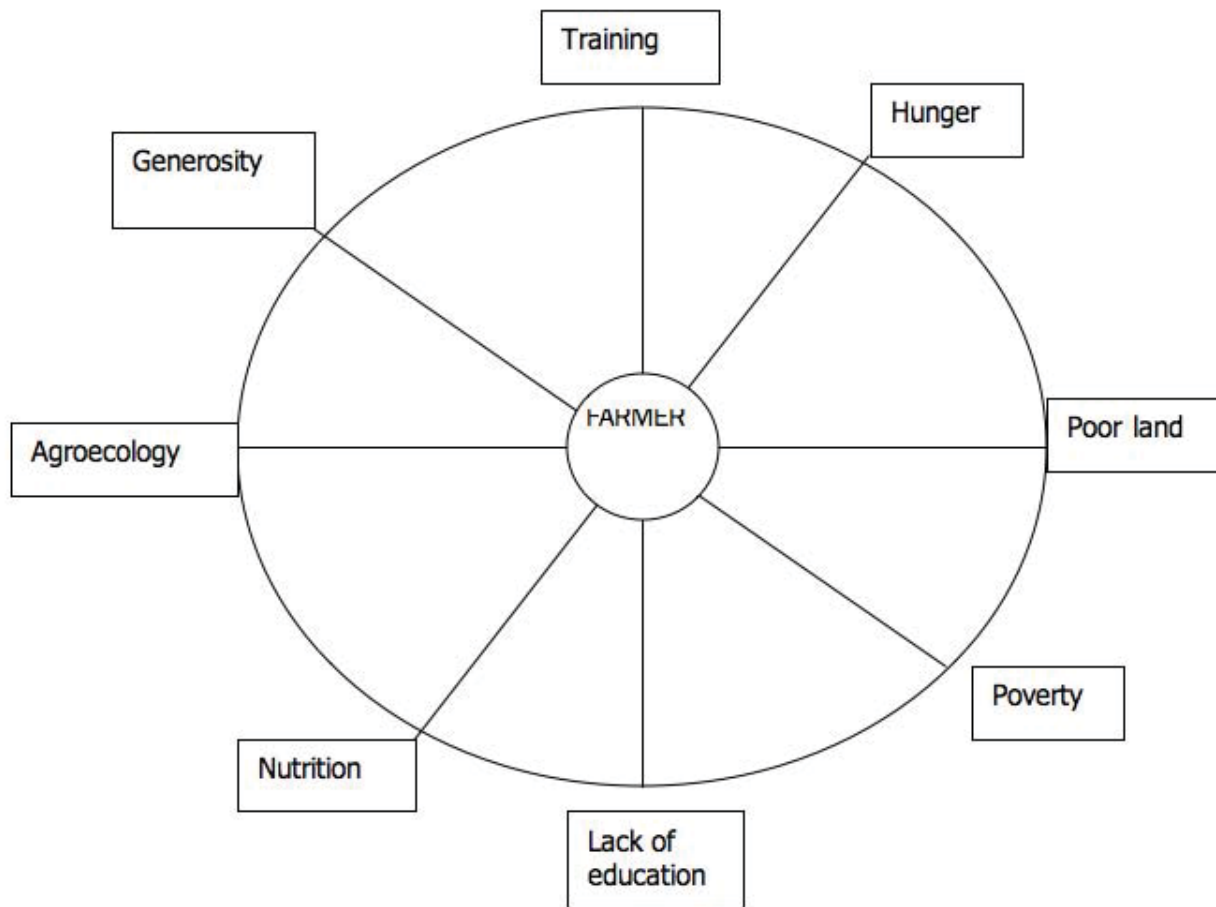
How Heifer's circle of support looks in the world – Pigs in the Dominican Republic

The day the pigs died was a day of deep sadness. African Swine Fever appeared on the island and the whole pig population was affected. The government made false promises that they would substitute new, healthy animals. But nothing happened. People like Doña Blanca were desperate. A long dictatorship was ending. Stolen land was being returned, but farmers like her needed to learn how to manage it well. And they needed livestock for cash income.

This is when Heifer arrived in the Dominican Republic and I, Nidia de los Santos, became the Heifer representative. Campesinos received pigs on the condition they would share some of their offspring with other families. Heifer taught us new ways to care for pigs and how to make land more productive. This was the beginning of real change. A decade and more has passed and I see that as economic independence grows, so does social independence.

Heifer passed us a gift of training, animals and technical assistance; we are passing it on. Because of her Heifer animals Doña Blanca was able to send her son to the agricultural university. He is now an agronomist, serving his community. He makes sure no more pigs need die.

Heifer's circle of support



OPTION 3: Distribution Solution – this is a very challenging activity!

During this activity the class (or groups) will simulate Heifer International's work to change the world.

Sticky situations

Heifer International helps people around the world.

Why might people need help?

Write the answers on sticky notes. The answers might include war, no money, natural disaster and illness. Place these sticky notes on the colander in places that do not interfere with the strings.

These kinds of things affect people around the world. Sometimes there is a natural disaster that destroys a farmer's field or home. Wars cause a lot of heartache and people are often forced to leave their homes. HIV/AIDS and other illnesses ravage whole communities. Each of these things leaves people who were already on the edge of survival in an even more difficult situation.

Two-liter bottles will represent the work of Heifer International. The strings represent all the people who work together to transform the lives of the farmers and their families.

The object of this activity is to lift the bottle with the strings through the colander and move it to the location that needs this resource – "Farmer" paper. Place the colander upside down so that the flat bottom is up. Place the two-liter bottle on top and have everyone take a hold of his or her string. The only rule is that you may not touch the bottle or the colander with any part of your body. You can only touch the strings. This is challenging but possible and there are many different ways to achieve the same results.



Note to Teacher: Younger children may want to carry some stuffed animals from one location to another. This will be much easier and provide the same teaching moment.

Reflection

See how working through this situation used all your strength and brains to learn how to quickly and carefully change a situation. It is through love that we approach the situation of injustice in the world. We know that God has given the world all that is necessary for all people to live a good and productive life. It is up to the people of the world to recognize that everyone is their neighbor and what befalls one, befalls us all. Heifer International provides a wonderful tool to make the Great Commandment a reality.

Use the distribution solution to carry the gifts from the congregation to the altar for dedication.

Fundraising Responses from lesson:

Balloon Relay:

Try to fill a large space with balloons. This could be a large box, a classroom, a space marked out on the floor of the fellowship hall – be creative.

Congregation members could purchase balloons that would be placed in the space. The children could determine the value of each balloon.



Heifer Circle of Support:

Create a Circle of Support from your congregation. Using a large hula-hoop add ribbons for every dollar amount (\$5, \$10 or \$20) donation. You can write the name of the donor on the ribbon or the animal that Heifer could provide with that donation. See overview material for dollar amounts needed for each animal or group of animals.

Challenge the congregation to fill the hoop.

At the end of the rotation select several people to re-create the Circle of Support from the lesson in the worship service as part of the dedication of the gifts given to support Heifer.

Distribution Solution:

How much does \$120 weigh and can you move it. Challenge the congregation to donate \$120 for a litter of pigs. Gather the money (no checks please) and place it in a container.

During the worship service for dedicating your support to Heifer have children carry the money using the colander and strings. Put a sign “Farmer” on your altar area to receive the gifts.

STUDY *Feeding 5,000:*
A faith-based educational program



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Feeding 5000

WORKSHOP:

Geography



www.heifer.org

PASS ON
THE GIFT
HEIFER
INTERNATIONAL

OUTLINE – Geography Workshop

Scripture: Matthew 6:9-25, Luke 11:1-4

Connection to Heifer:

In the Lord's Prayer we hear, "Give us this day our daily bread," we may be called to help eliminate poverty and hunger. Heifer is working to do just that by giving "not a cup but a cow," working with families around the world to assure that they have daily bread.

Objectives:

- Become more familiar with the Lord's Prayer
- Learn that resources are not evenly distributed around the world
- Learn that maps influence our global view
- Learn that Heifer International works with farmers around the world
- Learn that each congregation can make a difference by helping to lift families out of poverty through Heifer International

Overview:

- Open with the Lord's Prayer
- Review several maps and learn how maps affect our global view
- Do an activity with cereal to demonstrate the uneven distribution of resources in the world
- Consider hosting a breakfast to lift up the different kinds of programs that Heifer is involved in around the world
- Close with the Lord's Prayer for the world activity

Supplies:


- Traditional world map
- Heifer International Global Poverty Map (from Our Work and Organization 2008, pg. 24)

Peters Projection Map activity

- Peters Projection Map: available online at: <http://www.odtmaps.org/link.htm>
- Reaching out to the World map (from Animal Crackers)

"When is enough, enough?" Activity:

- Three card tables or one 8' table
- 100 paper cups
- Three boxes cereal

- 
- Placards:
 - 72 percent : Africa, Asia, South America
 - 22 percent: Soviet Union and Eastern Europe
 - 6 percent: United States of America

Lord's Prayer Reflection

- Prayer phrase cards cut out (provided)
- Passing on the Gift DVD (available from Heifer International)

LESSON – Geography Workshop

Open the session by reciting the Lord's Prayer.

When Jesus was alive he taught his disciples to pray. This special prayer is used by Christians around the world. Pray the Lord's Prayer with your class. If they do not know it by heart use an echo technique, in which the leader says one phrase and the children repeat it.

If possible have someone from your congregation recite the Lord's Prayer in another language. You may also be able to download audio files from the Internet with the Lord's Prayer in different languages.

What Do You Think?

What do you think the world would be like if all Christians around the world acted on the words of the Lord's Prayer? Which phrase might be a call to action to bring Jesus' idea of heaven to existence on Earth? When we say, "Give us this day our daily bread," are we taking responsibility for those who are starving?

Ask the children to close their eyes and think about how the world would be different if each phrase came true. Repeat the prayer slowly allowing time between each phrase for the children to think. This is an intrapersonal activity so no answers are necessary; the children do not need to share what they are thinking.

Expanding Your Global View:

Look at a world map. If God looked down what wouldn't God see?

Answers might include, national boundaries, names, colors of countries, a top or bottom

What would God see?

Answers might include, land, water, people, animals, trees, deserts etc. God would not see the boundaries or human made separations between people.

Is everything the same all around the world?

Is it hot everywhere?

Is there enough water everywhere?

Are the people the same everywhere?

Every place is different. Each community is very unique. Some places and people have lots of resources and some have fewer resources: less water, less wood, less food, less fuel and less money.

Look at the Heifer Global View of Poverty map.

What do you notice when you first view this map?

Why do you think there are lots of colors?

Look at the key to unlock the information this map contains. Talk about what each color represents.


Which color covers the most land?

Which color covers the second most amount of land?

Which color indicates the countries with the least resources (most poverty)?

Even though many places on this map are colored green or purple there are people within those countries that suffer from the effects of poverty.

Chronic poverty remains a significant problem in human development. Approximately 1.4 billion people live on



\$1.25 a day, the majority of them living in Africa and Asia. This is indicated by the red and dark pink colors. Poverty persists around the globe, with 70 percent of the poor living in rural, agrarian communities.

The Peters Projection Map:

Have the participants close their eyes and answer the following question. Which of the following do you think is the biggest in size: France, Germany, Great Britain, Brazil, Italy or Japan?

Traditionally, Brazil is put last, although it is actually the largest country on the list. We associate power with size: the bigger the country, the more powerful the country.

What is interesting is that our current view of the world is based on maps that often have Europe in the center of the Earth's surface and the equator two-thirds down from where it really is. Therefore, the Southern Hemisphere is radically reduced in size while the perceived power of the Northern Hemisphere is enhanced.

Dr. Arno Peters developed a map. It presents every country and the continent in its true scale in relation to the equator. This is called an equal area map. This map distorts the physical appearance of the landmasses in order to show all physical areas equally. Remember it is impossible to render a round globe on a flat piece of paper without allowing some distortions.

What does it feel like to look at this map?

When one first sees the Peters map one is often taken aback. 'That can't be right. Africa is not that big! Brazil looks as big as the USA.'

How does this change what you think about the AIDS epidemic in Africa or the plight of the Amazon rainforest?

How might it feel to be one of those 1.4 billion people who live on so little?

When is enough, enough?

(Reprinted with permission from Peacemaking Creatively Through the Arts by Phyllis Vos-Wezeman.

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Set the 100 cups out on the table in the following groups:

72 cups together, 22 cups together, 6 cups together. They can be on the same table or separate tables.

Before you start this demonstration, explain that if any cereal falls on the floor it is to be left there, and that all of the materials will be re-used for similar demonstrations.

The cereal represents all the basic resources of the Earth.

Roughly 72 percent of the world's population has access to only about 22 percent of the world's resources, while the United States, with only 6 percent of the world's population, consumes about 40 percent of the world's resources.

Pour the first box of cereal primarily into the 72 cups (Third World), but also pour some into the cups on the second table. Set the empty box on the "Third World" table.

Pour the second box mostly into the cups on the second table, with some also going into a few of the "USA" cups. Set the empty box on the second table.

Pour the contents of the third box completely into the six cups on the "USA" table, causing the cereal to overflow these cups and to spill all over the table. Set the box on this table.

To heighten awareness that even in the midst of plenty there are people who do not have enough resources, pour one of the six United States cups into the other five leaving only a few pieces of cereal in the cup.

Pour cereal from several of the 72 cups into three or four of the 72 cups making them overflow. In places where there is poverty, demonstrated by our 72 cups, there are still some who have more resources than others.

Discussion:

- What have you learned from this demonstration?
- What do you think should be done about this uneven distribution of food?
- If you are one of the people with the six cups are you willing to share some of your cereal?

What can we do to reduce hunger in the world?

In the late 1930s Dan West stood in a line handing out milk to hungry children day after day. He struggled with this very question. His answer – Give a cow not a cup! Since 1944 Heifer has worked with communities in more than 125 countries. They are currently active in 54 countries and 28 states in the United States of America. There are 928 ongoing projects in these 54 countries and each project is unique.

Reaching out to the World map (from Animal Crackers)

This map shows the many different countries in which Heifer International has active programs.

Share the stories for the Cereal Breakfast and locate the different countries on the map.

Fundraising Ideas

Have a Cereal Breakfast and share stories from Heifer about all the ingredients in a breakfast. During the breakfast share the **Passing on the Gift DVD** on a large screen TV or projector.

Perhaps a local grocery or health food store would donate the cereal or milk allowing more money to go directly to Heifer.

Breakfast food: Cereal – consider serving rice cereal
 Milk
 Honey
 Eggs
 Coffee

How Heifer helps people around the world to secure these resources:

Bees in **Honduras** increase crop production through pollination and provide extra income through the sales of honey collected from the hives.



Little things go a long way!

A simple calf, a Heifer pass-on from a neighbor- was a gift beyond the wildest dreams of Michael Lema and his family.

This animal represents more than four times the Lemas' previous annual income. But money is only one measure of the heifer's worth.

When she calves, the cow will provide fresh milk to the Lemas' two children, who are in desperate need of additional protein in their diets. There will be plenty of milk left over to sell and the cow's calf will be passed on to another family. A jump in the Lemas' income will lead to a more comfortable house, education for the children and an improved lifestyle.

In the subsistence economy of rural **Tanzania**, one calf possesses the power to break the cycle of poverty and give a family hope for a bright future.

From Devastation to Deliverance - Nicaragua

After Hurricane Mitch flooded their homes in 1998, the women banded together to seek help. A Dutch relief organization, the Friends from Holland, helped them purchase six acres of land and build new homes. The Catholic Sisters of Carmen Laura in nearby El Viejo, and a group from Norwich, England, provided each home with a well, a sink and a latrine. And the Agros Foundation helped the community buy more land for farming.

A nearby sugar mill provides seasonal work for the men, but earns them less than \$2 a day. So Heifer International got involved, with the goal not only to feed these families, but to provide another – more consistent – way for them to make a living.

That's where the chickens come in. Chickens are perfect income-producing animals. By the time they're six months old, chickens can lay up to 200 eggs a year; and their manure makes a great organic fertilizer for vegetable gardens.

As with every Heifer project, training and supplies were provided before a single chicken was distributed. The women learned how to build portable hen houses using local resources and how to feed and care for their hens.

Cup of Joe to the rescue!

Heifer Hope Blend, a new Fair Trade Certified™ organic coffee from Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, is bringing much-needed assistance to farmers in Guatemala's La Voz Cooperative while also supporting Heifer's mission worldwide.

For every bag of Heifer Hope Blend purchased, Green Mountain is giving 40 cents to Heifer. The partnership comes at a time of crisis for small-scale coffee farmers. With prices for coffee beans at historic lows because of a glut of low-quality coffee on the world market, as many as 25 million growers and their families face financial ruin.

But now, the farmers at La Voz are producing certified, organic, shade-grown specialty coffee and selling it at Fair Trade prices to Green Mountain Coffee, where it is being roasted and packaged as Heifer Hope Blend.

You can call Heifer International at 1-800-422-0474 to order. Each 12-ounce package of delicious robust flavor is \$8.69.



With Heifer, Neighborhood Walls Tumble Down

Mrs. Pheap's family once made a nice, middle-class living working their rice fields and caring for their cattle in their Cambodian village. But all that changed when she became seriously ill.

While she was hospitalized, her husband and five children sold all their property, including their cattle, to pay her medical expenses.

Mrs. Pheap eventually recovered from her illness, but then she faced a new challenge: recovery from poverty.

She started all over again by asking a relative for a temporary, and very small, plot of land. She and her children eked out a day-to-day existence by working this plot, but because of their new poverty and her husband's new alcohol addiction, her family was ostracized by their middle-class neighbors.

When Heifer's Cambodia project joined forces with a Cambodian organization, Krom Akphiwat Phum, the Pheap family, along with five other impoverished families, received a cow and a series of training courses on technical skills, community development concepts and gender equity.

Mrs. Pheap was overjoyed, saying her new Heifer resources "surpassed my highest expectations."

These days, even though her living conditions aren't what they used to be, Mrs. Pheap says she's happier than ever. And her husband is gradually interacting again with his family and the community.



"Sometime in the future, my family will be liberated from the poverty," she said, "if we can keep working hard together in the family, and also be kindly supported by the community."

From ostracism to "kind support": more proof that Heifer programs bridge gaps in communities and bring neighbors together.

SERVE RICE CEREAL!



After learning about the different Heifer projects do one or more of the following

- Make posters for the cereal breakfast
- Make placemats for the cereal with all the animals
- Communicate with families so that children can serve the breakfast.

Closing activity: Lord's Prayer for the world

The Lord's Prayer Phrase Cards each contain a phrase from the Lord's Prayer.

Divide the class into small groups.

Give each group one or two of the Lord's Prayer phrase cards.

Have them think about the phrase and then think of a place in the world that really needs that phrase of the prayer to become a reality. Have them write those places on their phrase cards.

Gather together around the world map and slowly recite the Lord's Prayer having each group place their cards on the map of the world.



Lord's Pray Phrase Cards

**Our Father Who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done
on Earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.



Lord's Pray Phrase Cards

**Forgive us our debts, as we forgive those
who debt against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the Kingdom
and the Power and the Glory forever.**

STUDY *Feeding 5,000:*
A faith-based educational program



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Feeding 50000

WORKSHOP:

Photography



PASS ON
THE GIFT
HEIFER
INTERNATIONAL



www.heifer.org

OUTLINE – Photography Workshop

Scripture: Acts 9

Connection to Heifer:

The people who receive a living gift from Heifer International are resource poor, struggling to make it on a daily basis. The Bible clearly speaks on behalf of them. *I am poor and needy; haste to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay!*

Objectives:

- The Psalmist speaks on behalf of the poor and needy
- Heifer has 12 Cornerstones that address just and sustainable development
- Beatrice was a young woman from Uganda who received Heifer goats

Overview:

- Do a Bible study from Psalms about people who poor and in need
- Review Heifer's Cornerstones
- Hear the story of Beatrice's Goat
- Create a clothesline storyboard to sequence the events of the story
- Using silhouettes and photography, create a silhouette slideshow of "Beatrice's Goat"
- Investigate what other Heifer programs are going on in Uganda
- Brainstorm how to fundraise for a donation of goats

Supplies:

- Class set of Bibles
- Graphic of Heifer Cornerstones (found in Resource Packet)
- Optional: Sample goat cheeses with apple or pear slices
- Silhouette Slide Show
- Clothespins
- Eight copies of the worksheet on page 5
- Markers
- Digital camera, computer, TV screen (See Note to Teacher)
- Silhouette screen:
 - King Size White Sheet
 - Bright light to shine from behind the sheet
- Simple Props:
 - Various stuffed animals and toys to represent the farm animals: goats, chickens, ducks
 - Beatrice's goat can be a rocking horse

- Potted plants and small trees
- Benches for the schoolyard
- Something to represent Beatrice's house
- Something to represent Beatrice's school
- Drinking cups
- Bucket
- Large coin

Heifer References:

- "Beatrice's Goat" by Page McBrier
- For older children and adults:
 - "Our Work and Organization"
 - Heifer International website (www.heifer.org)

In Advance:

- Take a look at the book, *Easter* by Jan Pienkowski, to see how the author uses silhouettes to illustrate the story of Holy Week. (© 1989, ISBN: 0-394-82455-5) This is often available in public libraries. This will give you a clue as to how to create simple set design.
- Hang up a clothesline. Make eight copies of the worksheet on page 6.
- Create the silhouette screen by hanging the sheet and placing the bright light about 10 feet back. That will give the actors room to create their scene.
- With the whole class being involved in so many scenes, the class will appreciate the opportunity to see a slideshow of the pictures. In advance, set up the ability to load the digital photos onto a computer that then is connected to a screen big enough for the children to see the images.
- Consider asking someone to come in to take the pictures to free the teacher to direct the class in the silhouettes.



Room set-up



Participants portray Peter's denial

LESSON – Photography Workshop

Do a Bible study from Psalms about the poor and needy:

"I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay!"

Psalm 7:5

- Who might be praying that prayer? Think of five scenarios when someone might pray this.
- What are they expecting from that prayer?
- For younger children, find Psalm 70:5 in the Bible.
- For older children and adults, look up other Psalms to discover how often the psalmist implores God to listen to the prayer.
 - Psalm 40:1-17
 - Psalm 69:1-29
 - Psalm 72:12-13
 - Psalm 82:3-4
 - Psalm 86:1-6

Cornerstones: Passing on the Gift (Refer to resource packet)

Review the Cornerstones using the following acronym:

- P Passing on the Gift
- A Accountability
- S Sharing and Caring
- S Sustainability and Self-reliance
- I Improved Animal Management
- N Nutrition and Income
- G Gender and Family Focus

ON THE

- G Genuine Need and Justice
- I Improving the Environment
- F Full Participation
- T Training and Education
- S Spirituality

Hear the story of Beatrice's Goat:

Which of the Heifer Cornerstones were at work in the life of Beatrice?

What's so great about goats?

- Goats do well on rocky, unproductive land.

- They produce rich, nutritious milk – usually four quarts a day – that can be made into cheese and yogurt. Sample the goat cheese.
- They generally have two kids a year.
- After passing on the gift to another family in need, the income from the milk pays for school fees, medicine, clothing and home improvement.
- Goat manure is a great fertilizer.
- Goats cost about one-sixth of what it costs to keep a cow.

Create a clothesline storyboard to sequence the events of the story:

- Determine the number of scenes to be enacted. For younger children, three to four scenes will suffice. Older children can work faster and more independently and can accomplish more scenes.
- Fill out the forms found on page 5 for each scene and hang in sequence across the clothesline.

Silhouette Reenactment and Photography:

- What scenery needs to be put in place?
- Who will play what roles? Where will they stand and how will they pose?
- Organize and direct the cast into place for the first scene. Freeze.
- Take the photograph.
- Repeat for as many scenes as were identified.

When all scenes have been posed and photographed, show them as a slide show and ask the class to supply the script for each scene.

For youth and adults:

Investigate what other Heifer programs are going on in Uganda

Refer to Heifer's website for stories about what Heifer is doing in Uganda.

- The Buyamba Community Dairy Goat Project has the goal of improving nutrition of at least 1,800 children in Buyamba Parish through milk consumption at least once a day. Some 160 families will benefit directly from the project over three years. Eighty families will each receive 80 exotic milk goat nannies, and another 80 families will receive 80 pass-on offspring. Fourteen exotic bucks will be given in the 14 sub-parishes for breeding purposes.

Fundraising:

Brainstorm how to fundraise for a donation of goats. Perhaps the children can collect spare change before and after worship by holding out milk glasses. Using the story of Beatrice or the Buyamba Community Dairy Goat Project, explain to the donors about how goats and their milk allow the recipients to become self-supporting.

Is your congregation launching a Heifer Challenge, Fill the Ark or Living Gift Market program? How can you show the slideshow of "Beatrice's Goat" within those settings?



Worksheet for Silhouette Scenes for the Enactment of “Beatrice’s Goat”:

Scene:

Draw the scene as it might look in a silhouette.

Setting:

Cast:

Props:

Feeding 5000

WORKSHOP:

Preschool



OUTLINE – Preschool Workshop

Why aren't preschoolers in the rotation?

Preschoolers by nature like routine. They are just beginning to form relationships with adults in the church and need the stability of a single classroom each week. They will surely enjoy seeing the puppet shows and videos created by the older children but need their own space and activities.

There are six different options from which you can choose. They do not have to be done in any particular order. The activities will generally take about 15-20 minutes so the remainder of the time can be spent in conversation, free play, snacks and prayer.

Consider adding lots of animal toys to your preschool rooms as a visual focus on Heifer.

Bible Story	Scripture	Activity	Talent to invite into classroom
Noah's Ark	Genesis 6-9	Make animal cookies and learn about all of the animals that Heifer provides.	Maker of gingerbread houses
Great Commandment	Matthew 23:34-40	Play balloon games to learn about how Heifer works to promote community with the Pass on the Gift cornerstone.	Balloon artist
Feeding of the 5,000	John 6:14	Make fish prints to connect the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 to the miracles happening in people's lives when they receive a Heifer animal.	Printmaker Fisherman
Paul's Conversion	Acts 9	Just as Saul had a conversion on the road when he encountered Jesus, so Dan West had a conversion that led him to found Heifer. Make drip candles to learn about the various animals of Heifer.	Candlemaker
Lord's Prayer	Matthew 6:9-35	When we recite the Lord's Prayer, we say "Give us this day our daily bread." Not only do we pray that God will keep us fed, but that we can be part of God's presence in feeding others. Make worm pudding to think about good dirt .	Worm grower

Choose among any of the five Heifer activities.

LESSON – Preschool Workshop

Format for the lesson: (based on one hour together)

Greeting

Free play time

Signal to come to the table – Heifer Moo or an animal sound?

Snack time: see snack ideas

Blessing: *Dear God, we thank you for this food, bless it to our use and us to your service. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

Heifer Activity (See following pages)

Closing prayer

Wonderful God, you made all creation so amazing. We give you thanks for the opportunity to help people around the world live in your creation in a life giving way. Bless this congregation as we give of our gifts to Heifer. Bless the workers for Heifer as they share their knowledge with others. Bless the families who receive the living gifts from Heifer. May they feel our love shared and pass on the gift. Amen.

Snack Options:

- Animal crackers
- Milk
- Cheese and crackers
- Rabbit food – carrots, lettuce and celery
- Dried fruit and nut mix – from trees that heifer plants
- Fish crackers



ANIMAL COOKIES

Noah's Ark: Genesis 6-9

Learn about Heifer's diversity of animals

Supplies:

- Pre-made animal cookies
- Sugar cookie or gingerbread dough
- Assorted animal cookie cutters available from craft stores or online sources.
- Rolling pins
- Waxed paper or parchment paper
- Baking pans

The Mrs. Noah Affect

Noah's wife certainly helped keep the family afloat on the ark. Because of the living gift of animals from Heifer many women around the world have found new ways to help keep their families afloat too.

Florence Ndichia is one such woman. Like those who thought Noah was crazy, people around Florence thought she was crazy for partnering with Heifer to begin raising dairy cows.


Florence received training from Heifer and developed her pasture before getting her heifer. Since then her heifer had five calves! Florence has already passed on the gift by giving a calf to another deserving farmer.

Today, the Ndichiases jointly sponsor four of their children in secondary and high school. Income generated from Florence's milk sales has also enabled her to regularly participate in various savings and thrift societies, called njangis, and purchase a handcart for transporting forage from the farm to the animal shelter. Additionally, the regular application of the animal's manure on the farm's crops has greatly increased their yields. Overall the arrival of the Heifer cow has significantly improved the family's standard of living.

Florence's resolve and hard work proved her right. Just like Noah's family, Florence's family has a great new beginning.

Share the story of Noah's Ark with the children. This can be directly from the Bible or from a storybook from the church or public library. Remember to emphasize that the important aspect of the story is the establishment of the covenant between God and Noah. God promised Noah that there would always be a relationship between God and humankind.

The story of Noah's ark is a story of hope and salvation. People were making poor choices and God decided to start over again. Today people continue to make choices that put other people at risk of hunger and poverty. Heifer founder, Dan West is like a modern day Noah. When he saw hungry children he chose to do something about it. Like Noah, Dan West gathered animals to change the world. Heifer provides the living gift of animals



that give people a chance at life. Heifer animals provide life-saving nutrition and add protein to inadequate diets. Money earned from selling animal products such as cheese, eggs and woven goods helps families afford school for their children, as well as medicine and housing improvements that better the health for the whole family.

- Have the animal cookies and dough made in advance.
- Roll dough between waxed paper to keep mess to a minimum.
- Use assorted animal shape cookie cutters to cut out cookies. Select farm animals rather than zoo animals.
- While the cookies bake, decorate the pre-baked cookies and talk about the animals provided by Heifer. (See Resource Packet.)
- Each child needs to make 3 or more cookies:
 - Cookies for a bake sale to raise money for Heifer. This could be used in the “Fill the Ark” or “Living Market” programs.
 - Cookies to pass on to a member of the congregation, just as the farmers pass on the gift of an animal “to another deserving farmer. “Pass on the gift” is important to Heifer. Once a family receives a living loan of an animal, it is expected that some of the offspring is passed on to neighbors.
 - Cookies for themselves

BALLOON GAME

Great Commandment: Matthew 23:34-40

Learn about Heifer's community support

Supplies:

- 8" or 9" round balloons, blown up – perhaps 50-100
- Paper bags or large boxes to hold the balloons for each group
- 1 sheet of thin masonite or thick plywood with a smooth surface, approximately 1 square yard (3'x3')
- Twelve Cornerstones of Heifer International

Advance Preparation:

Write the 29 different animals that Heifer provides on the balloon. Additional balloons can include the church name or the childrens' names. These represent all the donors who support the work of Heifer.

Heifer helps people work together

Goats are friendly creatures that nuzzle your hand and nibble your buttons – they're curious to find out all about you. Sometimes, Heifer goats build friendships where there were only bad feelings before.

That's what happened in Albania. An unsettled political situation and economic hardship had everyone on edge, especially in Alarup, a mountain village where Heifer had a goat-development project. People there depend on goats as a primary source of income.


Two families, both members of the Heifer group, had been feuding over politics for decades. Things came to a head when a young man from one family and a young woman from the other wanted to get married. Their families refused, and the unhappy young woman was married off to a lad from another village.

Twenty years later at a Heifer group meeting, the two saw each other again. How would the families react? The Heifer group came to a wise decision. "We will pass on the offspring of our gift goats to these two families first," they said. A longstanding feud ended; the villagers cheered, and, from all appearances, the goats were happy too!

The Great Commandment is found in three of the Gospels, Matthew 22:34-40, Mark 12:28-34, and Luke 10:25-28. Read any of the scripture referenced from the translation of the Bible that the congregation uses.

This Great Commandment conveys Jesus' message to the world. It restates the ancient law from Deuteronomy known as the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4-6). In Jesus' time, every Jew would have known these verses. Even today this ancient text can be found in the mezuzahs that are in many Jewish homes. The challenge then and now is to live out the scriptures, not to just know them.

The scriptures are to be in your heart at all times. If you act out of love, then you see each person as a child of God, worthy of love. You don't want to do anything that would harm your neighbor. This is doing the will of God. Heifer International is based on this very principle. Love and respect for all people is lived out in their organization and work.



Heifer International provides the living gift of animals to help farmers around the world feed their families and generate income to send their children to school. Animals are chosen for farmers in different countries based on their needs, community and environment.

The balloon activity explores the way that Heifer helps to change the lives of farmers around the world. The object of this activity is to work together to transport balloons from one end of the room to the other and then use them to support the weight of the group.

Divide the class into two or three groups and gather at one end of the room.

At the opposite end of the room, place the sheet of masonite and a box or bag to contain the balloons.

While dividing the animals balloons equally between the groups, share information about the animals.

Each group should form two lines, as they will need to transport the balloons in pairs. If you have a very small group you can challenge them to move all the balloons in 5 minutes using the list below of transportation methods. If they accomplish this see if they can set a shorter time and meet that time.

- The first pair should pick up a balloon. They will have to carry the balloon between their right elbows to the opposite side of the room. They can then deposit the balloon in the bag or box provided. They should then run back and tag the second pair.
- The second pair should pick up a balloon and carry it between their left pointer fingers (no other fingers please.) Repeat what the first pair did.
- The third pair should pick up a balloon and carry it between their left knees.
- The fourth pair should carry the balloon between their hips.
- The fifth pair should carry the balloon between their forearms.
- Make up additional transportation methods as needed. Have fun!

Different methods were used to move the balloons from one end of the room to another. Heifer uses different methods and techniques and animals to help people get to the same goal. This is because no two communities are the same. Each has different strengths and needs and yet the goal is always the same: help families take care of themselves and then pass it on.

Taking a stand with Heifer:


When all the balloons are at the opposite end of the room in their containers the entire team should go to that end of the room. The next part of the activity will be to place the balloons under the masonite and have one or more children stand on the board with the fewest balloons popping. Make sure there are plenty of spotters.

When they are successful, ask them to shout out, “Love your neighbor as yourself!”

Reflection:

It seems as if the balloons won't hold up a person; certainly if only one balloon were under the masonite, it would pop.

- Why do you think it works?
- Was it easy to get the balloons to stay under the masonite?
- How can you relate this activity to the Great Commandment and Heifer's work in communities?



The person/s supported by the balloons were supported because all the balloons worked together. The pressure was distributed to all the balloons; no one balloon had to carry all the weight alone. When we recognize that all people are our neighbors, we can work together to support one another as we strive to live as God wishes: filled with love. Heifer knows that when we all work together—local congregations, individuals, Heifer staff and farmers—great things can happen!

Pass on the Gift. A very important aspect of Heifer's work is that each farmer commits to pass on the gift of a living animal to another farmer in need. In this way, the farmers demonstrate their love for their neighbors. Younger children may want to take a balloon for themselves at the end of class. If this is part of the plan, make sure there are enough balloons for each participant to take two – one to keep and one to give to someone else, just like Heifer's passing on the gift!

FISH PRINT - GYOTUKU

Feeding of the 5,000: John 6:14

Learn how fish are part of Heifer's wide range of animals

Supplies:

- Newspaper to cover the table surface
- Smocks
- Paint brushes
- Tempera paints in many colors
- Bowls of water to rinse out brushes
- Several plastic fish replicas (www.eNasco.com has a wide variety for the Japanese printing technique called gyotaku.)
- There is debate as to whether it is legitimate to use real fish for an art project when others don't have enough to eat. To create authentic gyotaku, real fish would be used. This would also reinforce the goal of HEIFER to acknowledge the indigenous culture.
- Disposable plastic gloves if using real fish.

Option 1: fabric banner

- A piece of muslin long enough to hang across a room

Option 2: paper fish-mobile

- Two pieces of banner paper at least 2" wider than the fish for each participant
- Scissors
- Stapler
- String
- Newspaper to stuff into paper fish

There is a fish story in the Bible about how Jesus fed 5,000 people with two fish. It is found in John 6:1-14. Share the story from the Bible or a Children's Bible.

There is an old saying that if you give a hungry person a fish, that person will be hungry again tomorrow. If you teach that person to fish, that person will be fed for life.

Perhaps Dan West, the founder of Heifer International, heard this story when he was a child. As an adult Dan found himself in Spain serving milk to refugees from the Spanish Civil War. He realized that it wasn't enough to simply provide them with a cup of milk each day. They needed the means to supply their own milk. He said "Not a cup, but a cow." When he returned to his farm in Indiana, he decided to send heifers, young cows, back to Spain. The idea and program blossomed into Heifer Project International.

Since 1944, Heifer has helped 12.5 million families in more than 125 countries become self-sufficient. Heifer provides someone with the "living loan" of an animal. That animal provides both food and income. In turn, the family passes on the offspring to another family in need. Over time, Passing on the Gift to a neighbor can lift a whole community out of poverty.



CANDLE MAKING

Paul's Conversion: Acts 9

Learn about Dan West and the various animals that HEIFER offers.

Supplies:

- White candles for every participant. If taper candles are used, they will need to have candleholders. Pillar candles would be more practical, but more expensive.
- Candle work stations (no more than six people at each pot of hot wax)
- Lots of newspaper to cover work surface and surrounding floor
- Hot plate
- Double boiler:
 - Stainless steel or aluminum pot large enough for four tin cans
 - Since wax will build up in the pot, use an old one that can be discarded.
 - 4 tin cans
 - Blocks of paraffin
 - Candle dye (red, yellow, blue and white)
 - Drinking straws

Bee Tale

Heifer International bees helped Agaba Jimmy Zab of Uganda buy a bicycle. As instructed, he placed beehives near his field of maize, beans and tomatoes. Cross-pollination by the bees resulted in better crops than ever before, and he got a good price at the vegetable market. With the money and the sale of honey, he bought a bike and is saving to buy land. He happily passed on a bee colony to a neighbor and says, "Long live Heifer!"

Bee Generosity: Bees produce about three times as much honey as the hive needs!

Bees wax from the honeycomb makes beautiful candles too!

In Matthew 25, Jesus told us how we should treat each other. He said "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." The righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?" Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Dan West and the thousands of staff and volunteers that belong to Heifer International have looked around the world and found many people in need. Heifer provides animals to families to change their lives. Share the information about the various animals that Heifer provides.



Share the story above about Agaba Jimmy Zab and bees.

Today the project will be to decorate candles by adding colored wax on the outside. Just like beekeepers have to be very careful when they handle bees, we will have to be very careful working with the wax. Demonstrate the proper technique of dripping wax with the straw. Be sure the children know not to touch the hot wax!

Use a straw to drip the **colored** wax over the white candles. Dip the straw into the wax, close off the top with a finger, move the straw over the candle and release the wax by removing the finger.

Have the children lay their candle on the newspaper and the wax at an easy reach.

Have them all put a straw in the wax, cover it with their finger and bring it over their candle. Recite the name of one of the animals that Heifer provides. When the name is said, they should remove their finger and drip the colored wax on the white candle. Repeat this for all the animals that Heifer provides. Encourage the children to make drips all along their candles instead of all in one place.

If this goes well they can create a second candle to be their pass on.

GOOD DIRT

Lord's Prayer: Matthew 6:9–35

“Give us this day our daily bread.”

Supplies:

- Instant chocolate pudding – number of packages determined by size of group
- Milk – per recipe on pudding box
- Oreo cookies – approximately 2 cookies per ½ serving of pudding
- Gummy worms – 2 per ½ serving of pudding
- Animal crackers
- Coconut (optional)
- Nuts (optional – check for allergies)
- Small bowls (1 for every 3 children)
- Wire whisks or spoons to stir pudding
- Measuring cups
- Freezer bags or mortar and pestle for making cookie crumbs
- Clear glasses or plastic cups (at least twice as many as participants. They will Pass on the Gift)

Decide in advance if you will have each child make one extra cup to pass on or if you will make lots and invite the congregation to share and make a donation to Heifer International.

Heifer makes a delicious difference. Around the world Heifer International works with communities as diverse as the high mountains of the Andes to the urban settings in Chicago or New York. The goal of Heifer International is to help families eliminate hunger and poverty. Heifer provides a **gift of an animal** to families.

Before families get their animal they have to go to school. Well, Heifer brings the school to them. Each recipient is trained in the best practices of raising the animals in their particular environment. This training helps develop a deeper sense of community and commitment to the changes that will happen in their lives when the animal arrives.

New farmers learn how to care for their animal and keep it healthy. They also learn how to care for the Earth so that it can continue to provide for their needs and for future generations. In some places farmers learn that they should keep their animals in pens raised up off the ground and bring the food to the animal. This way the animals don't ruin the fields they eat from and because their pens are raised it is easy to keep them clean. The manure they produce (yup that's poop) is gathered up from under their pens and made into compost. The compost is used as fertilizer on the fields that produce the food for the animal. It also enriches the soil for the families' own garden.

One of the animals that really help make compost rich and good for the soil is Earthworms. These little animals eat anything organic – that means living. Earthworms help break down larger pieces of plant material, such as food scraps, and make them into a nutrient-rich addition to dirt. Earthworms also help break up hard soil and make room for water to flow. In a healthy acre of soil there can be 500,000 worms! That's a lot of help on the farm!

One of the most important aspects of Heifer's involvement in a community is that of Passing on the Gift. Each person who receives an animal and training is required to pass on the offspring of their animal to another person in the community. Through this passing on the gift, whole communities are changed. People who once thought that they might not have enough food or money for their children are now able to support their own family and to share this blessing with others.

Training • animal gift • enriched soil from compost • better gardens • Passing on the Gift • a better world!


Have children gather around the mixing bowls, two- to three children per bowl if possible and then share the following information as you assemble the Heifer Cups.

In the late 1930s Dan West, the founder of Heifer International was working in Spain helping families who had lost a lot during their war. Each day he handed out cups of milk to the children. He saw the same children day after day and realized that what they needed was a cow. Then they could have milk at home every day. From that thought Heifer International started, all because of a cup of milk.

- Have everyone measure the appropriate amount of milk and pour it carefully into their bowl.

Milk is good for you but you need more than just milk to live. Heifer International now works with people all over the world to make the Earth better so it can grow more food and support live better.

- Sprinkle the chocolate pudding mix on top of the milk. As you stir the pudding mix into the milk think about the fact that Heifer helps people make good dirt.
- Once the pudding is mixed set it aside and prepare to crush the cookies.



Hard Earth is not good for growing plants for animals or people. The Earth has to be worked in a way that it is broken up so that plants can send their roots deep into the soil and get food and water. This solid cookie is like the Earth in some places, hard and solid. Heifer teaches people how to break up the dirt and add compost, natural things, to it so it will grow better plants. Worms are great helpers in making good compost material.

- Break up the cookies to make good “dirt.”
- Optional: add coconut and or nuts to the cookies to represent compost material.

Heifer doesn't just give animals to people. They give training and support and then require that the family passes on the gift of an animal and training to someone else in their community.

- Give each participant at least two cups.

We are going to make two Heifer cups, one to eat ourselves and one to share.

- Scoop some pudding into each cup.
- Place the cookie crumbs on top of the pudding.
- Place gummy worms so they are coming out of the cup.
- Add animal crackers to the top of the cup to represent the animals that Heifer provides.

A Cup of Heifer – One to eat and one to share – Passing on the Gift!

STUDY *Feeding 5,000:*
A faith-based educational program

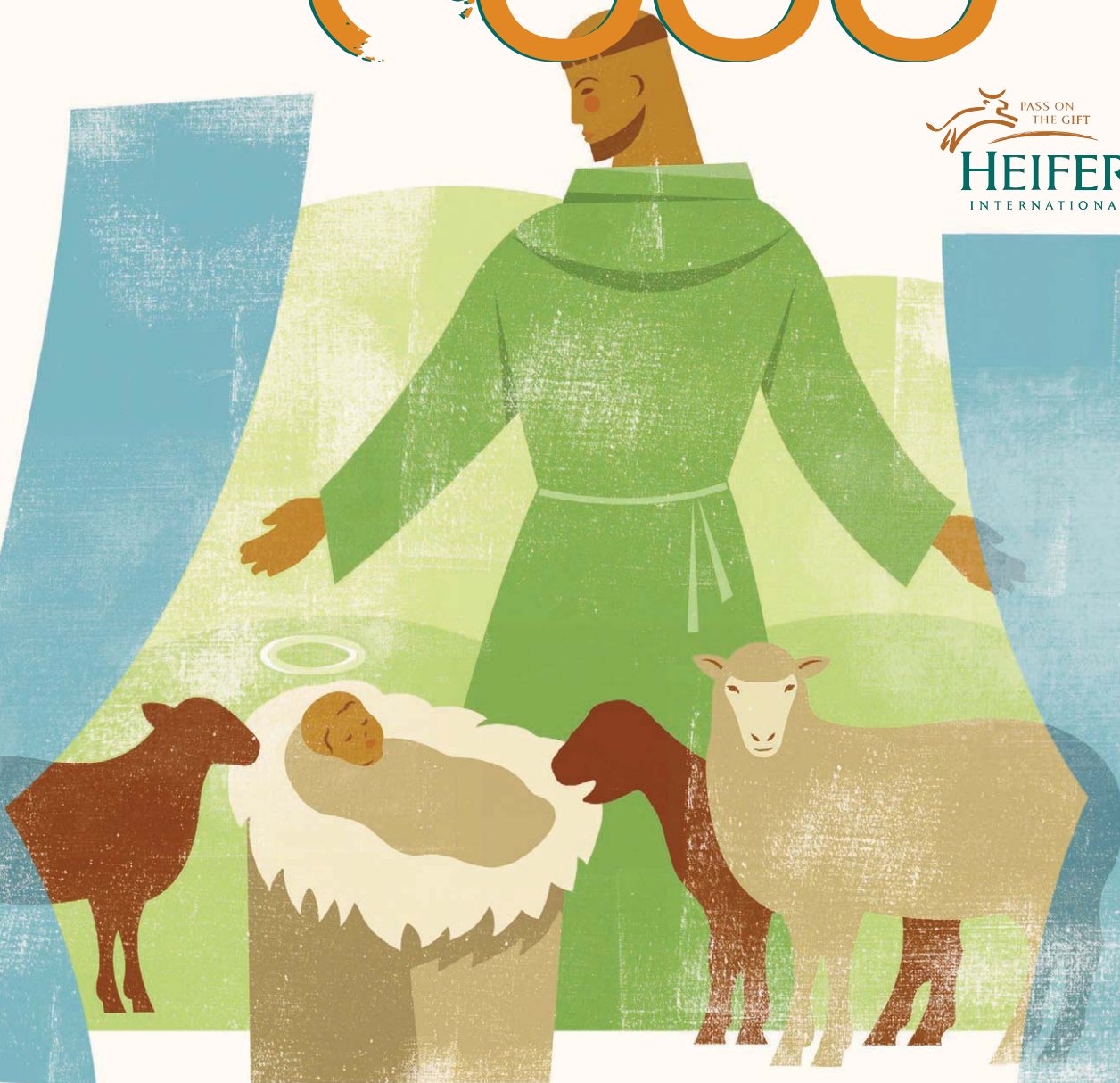


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Feeding 50000

WORKSHOP:

Puppetry



www.heifer.org

OUTLINE – Puppetry Workshop

Scripture: John 1:1,14, Luke 2:1-7

Connection to Heifer:

When Jesus was born, even the animals gathered at the nativity, awestruck by God's presence. As we think about those animals at that manger, imagine how those animals were offering their gifts. Heifer offers living gifts to people in need all over the world, not only of livestock but also of human compassion and volunteerism.

Objectives:


- Jesus came to live among us.
- As the Christmas carol, "The Friendly Beasts," so beautifully describes it, even the animals of Creation recognize the awesome presence of the Christ Child. Even the animals find their own gifts to give to the Christ Child.
- Heifer International provides animals as living gifts to farmers in need.
- Congregations can consider alternative Christmas giving by providing money to Heifer for animals.

Overview:

- Hear the story of St. Francis of Assisi and how he developed the crèche as a witness to the birth of the Christ Child.
- Create animal puppets representing many of the animals provided by Heifer International.
- Enact a puppet show to an adaptation of the Christmas carol, "The Friendly Beasts."
- Consider sharing the puppet show in worship to inform the congregation about the living gifts provided by Heifer International.

Supplies:

- A recording of the Christmas Carol, "The Friendly Beasts"
A poster of the words so that children could sing along
- A crèche with as many figures as possible. If you don't have an actual crèche consider posting Christmas cards that depict the Nativity.
- Optional resource:
 - *The Friendly Beasts: An Old English Christmas Carol*
Illustrated by Tomie dePaola, ©1981, ISBN 0-399-20739-2, G.P. Putnam's Sons,
51 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10010
- Puppets and props
 - Create a space that will become your puppet stage area.
 - Use animal puppets if you have them.

- 
- Use stuffed animals if you have the animals that will be used in the lesson.
 - Use finger puppets OR stick puppets OR full size cardboard puppets—see instructions in the lesson.
 - Print out a copy of the Nativity that is provided. If you are will be using full size animals, have a live Holy Family. You will need costumes for Mary and Joseph and if possible some sort of manger and doll to represent Jesus.

LESSON – Puppetry Workshop

Have a crèche set up in the classroom. Gather around it to begin the class.

- How many of you have crèches in your home? Crèches are nativity scenes.
- What figures are usually in the scene?
- Do you know how the tradition started?

St. Francis and the Nativity Scene: *Share the following information*

About 800 years ago a man named Francis lived in Assisi, Italy. He was born to a rich family, but would often leave home just to give money away to the poor. Once, when he had no money, he gave away his own coat to a beggar.

Francis turned his back on his rich family and lived a life of physical poverty. He found happiness and peace in his relationship with God. He traveled the countryside helping the poor and the sick and telling people about God. Francis really loved nature.

One night as he was walking to the next town, he saw some shepherds in the field and was reminded of the Christmas story in the Bible. He decided to re-create the story for the people of that town. He secretly gathered a feed trough from the stable and some animals and put costumes on some of his followers. He let it be known that everyone in the town should come to a certain spot that night to witness something awesome.

When they all arrived, they saw a live nativity. The story they had heard all of their lives had come to life. There sat Mary and Joseph and even the baby Jesus. There were shepherds and kings and animals. St. Francis read the story from the Bible and asked everyone to treat each other as they would treat Jesus.

There are many Christmas Carols about that holy night, the night that Jesus was born.

- What are some the carols you know that tell the story of that night?

Some carols tell the story of how people recognized Jesus as the Son of God. Jesus was not just an ordinary baby. God chose to come to Earth and live among us. Jesus started out just like us. It is amazing that so many knew that Jesus was someone special.

Long ago someone wrote a Christmas carol called “The Friendly Beasts.” In this carol the animals in the stable share their gifts with Jesus. The last verse uses the name Emmanuel for Jesus. This word means “God with us.”

Play the carol now if you have a recording, having the class pay attention to what the animals feel and what they each gave to the Christ Child.



Connection to Heifer International:

At Christmas time many of us consider giving gifts to one another in honor of Jesus. Heifer International provides a wonderful alternative for us. Just as the first crèche was a living gift from St. Francis to the people of Assisi, Heifer provides **living gifts** of animals to people around the world. The wonderful thing about Heifer is that it gives these living gifts all year long. For families in need it is like Christmas when a Heifer animal arrives.

The gift giving doesn't stop there. Each person who receives a living gift of an animal from Heifer International agrees to **Pass on the Gift**. This means they share their training and one of the animal's offspring with another family in the community. Our initial contribution to Heifer is an outward and visible sign our love of Jesus and our thanks for this wonderful gift from God.

Puppet show:

The original carol only talks about the animals that were present at Jesus' birth. Heifer gives these kinds of animals and many more to people everyday. In the remainder of the lesson create the appropriate puppet of choice and make a puppet show of the Heifer version of "The Friendly Beasts." Be sure to share information about the different animals. (See Resource Packet.) If you make finger puppets or stick puppets the children can take them home at the end of the session.

Finger Puppets:

Print out and precut finger puppets.

Have children color them before you tape the ends together to make the actual puppet.

Have each child select 10 different puppets for their fingers OR have each child's hand have the same animals.

- Place the Nativity picture in the center of the puppet stage area.
- Gather the children in a circle and sing the song having them either move the appropriate finger or hand.
- After they have practiced as a group have them go behind the puppet stage.
- During the song as each animal's verse is sung have the children either raise the finger with the animal or put the hand up with the animals.
- All the fingers will be wiggling or all hands will be up during the last verse of the song which should be the last verse from the traditional carol.

Stick Puppets:

Print out larger animal graphics.

Have children color them, cut them out and glue them to popsicle sticks to create stick puppets.

- Place the Nativity picture in the center of the puppet stage area. This can be fixed in position or on sticks to be like a puppet.
- Gather the children in a circle and sing the song, having them move the animal they represent at the appropriate time.
- After they have practiced as a group have them go behind the puppet stage.

- As each animal's verse is sung have the children raise their puppet and gather around the Nativity.
- All the puppets should be up for the last verse of the song which should be the final verse of the traditional carol.

Life size or oversize Puppets:

Enlarge the animal graphics on heavy cardboard. Make them either life size or even larger for some of the smaller animals.

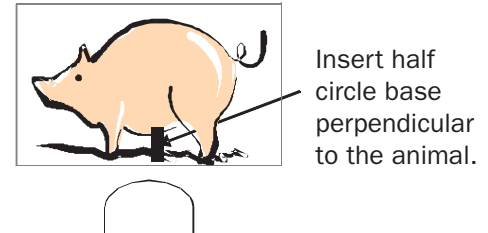
Cut out the animals.

Cut a slit at the center point of the base of the animal.

Create a half-circle base for each animal.

Insert the stand into the slit in the center of the animal. (Dark line)

Have each class decorate and color the puppets.



- Decide who will be Mary and Joseph and set up the stage with the manger.
- Gather the children in a circle and sing the song having them move the animal they represent at the appropriate time.
- After they have practiced as a group have all the animals line up in order of appearance off of the stage.
- As each animal's verse is sung have the children place their animal near Mary and Joseph. If the animal is large enough, the child should sit down behind the animal and move it a little now and then to make it look more alive. If the animals are not so big have each child put the animal in place and leave the stage.
- All the puppets should be on stage for the last verse of the song which should be the final verse of the traditional carol.

Reflection:

Sit in a circle again.

Consider which of the animals you would like to give through Heifer International.

Why do you want to give that animal?

What ways can you encourage others to give to Heifer?

If you are going to do the puppet play in worship as either information about Heifer International or as part of the dedication of your congregations gifts to Heifer you will need to plan time to rehearse. Invite members of the congregation to sing along during worship as you dedicate the gifts to Heifer.

Animals that Heifer provides help children:

"I," said the **camel** as he bumped along,
I carry big loads because I am strong.
I travel far on roads that are long."
"I," said the camel as he bumped along.

"I," said the **worm** all slippery and round,
"I help the farmer without any sound.
As I work in the soil deep underground."
"I," said the worm all slippery and round.

"We," said the **chickens, geese and the ducks**,
"We fill the yard with our honks and our clucks,
Our eggs can be eaten or sold for big bucks."
"We," said the chickens, geese and the ducks.

"I," said the **water buffalo**,
"I am big and strong but very slow.
I plow the fields so the grain will grow."
"I," said the water buffalo.

"I," said the **pig** with the curly tail,
"The children put leftovers in my pail.
I'll soon be a porker and then be for sale."
"I," said the pig with the curly tail.

"I," said the **llama** from the mountain high,
"My fleece is soft and warm and dry.
It's spun into yarn that mothers will buy."
"I," said the Llama from the mountain high.

"I," said the **guinea pig** all soft and brown,
"I live up high in the mountain town,
My pups will be shared with families all 'round."
"I," said the Guinea pig all soft and brown.

"I," said the **goat** with a curious look,
"My milk rich and warm to market they took.
They sold it in town to buy a new book."
"I," said the goat with a curious look

"I," said the **rabbit** with the floppy ears,
"My fur is so soft it dries children's tears,
My baby bunnies chase away fears."
"I," said the rabbit with the floppy ears.

"I," buzzed the **bee** in the flower bright,
"Mothers use my wax to make their light.
My honey makes children smile with delight."
"I," buzzed the bee in the flower bright.

STUDY *Feeding 5,000:*
A faith-based educational program



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Feeding 5000

WORKSHOP:

Science



www.heifer.org

OUTLINE – Science Workshop

The Earth Connection

Agroecology – a healing touch for the Earth

Scripture: The Great Commandment

Matthew 23:34-40, Mark 12:28-34, Luke 10:25-28

Connection to Heifer:

Jesus clearly told us in the Great Commandment to love our neighbor. Heifer calls everyone to help a neighbor, whether next door or across the world. The recipient of an animal also has the honor of passing on the offspring, continuing to be good neighbor. The human side of self-sufficiency goes hand in hand with respect for the environment, its sustainability and its indigenous culture.

Objectives:

- Learn the Great Commandment.
- Understand that God created the Earth in a way to sustain all forms of life.
- Understand that the personal choices we make can affect our environment.
- Learn how Heifer International promotes agroecology.
- Learn that there are agricultural practices that respect the environment and promote sustainability of the environment.
- Learn that Heifer provides training that combines the best of local practices with new technology.
- Learn that when Heifer recipients Pass on the Gift they give more than just an animal. They pass on knowledge too.
- Make a commitment to support Heifer International by making a donation.

Overview:

- Read the Great Commandment in Luke 10:25-37.
- Do science experiments to learn about being good ecological neighbors. Choose options that best fit your situation.
 - Create an ecosystem.
 - Where has all the dirt gone?
 - Learn how to make good dirt.
- Learn how Heifer trains people in sustainable agriculture practices including organic gardening.

Supplies:

- Class set of Bibles
- White board or large sheets of paper
- Markers



Option 1: Ecosystems (older elementary to adult)

- 2-liter bottles – two per system being built
- potting soil
- aquatic plants
- fish tank gravel
- scissors
- ruler (You could also make cardboard 5” sleeves that will fit around the two-liter bottles to use as a template to mark where the bottle should be cut.)
- water (non-chlorinated – fish supply stores have drops you can use to neutralize the chlorine in city water.)
- fish – optional (one small goldfish or guppy per student)
- fish food
- duct tape or clear packing tape

Option 2: Run off test

- 6 small aluminum trays – uniform size
- kitchen sponges - enough to cover the bottom of approximately 4 of the trays.
- potting soil – enough to have about a half an inch of soil in each pan. Pre-measure so you know exactly how much each pan will require.
- large pitcher of water
- measuring cups, both liquid and dry
- scissors that will cut the sponges

Option 3: How to Make Good Dirt

- large plastic container
- dirt
- kitchen scraps (no meat or citrus scraps)
- organic material such as grass or chopped leaves

LESSON – Science Workshop

During this time together share the story of the Great Commandment and explore the concept of loving God and being a good neighbor. Begin with Bible study and then select a project or two to explore the way that Heifer International helps people around the world be good neighbors to each other and to the Earth.

One day Jesus was in the Temple in Jerusalem answering questions from Pharisees, Sadducees and scribes. As recorded in Matthew 22:34-40 and Mark 12:28-34, Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was. He responded with the scripture we called the Great Commandment.

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind. (NRSV)*

The Gospel of Luke recorded this incident in a different way. A lawyer asked Jesus about eternal life. The lawyer is the one who recites the old scripture from Deuteronomy and then Jesus goes on to explain about neighbors by telling the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Pass out the Bibles and invite them to look up Luke 10:25-37.

How would you answer the lawyer?

Create a class definition of NEIGHBOR on either a white board or poster paper. This can look like a dictionary definition or a list of characteristics of a neighbor.

- How Jesus would define a good neighbor?


Work with the class to expand their definition of who their neighbor is until they see that we have local, regional, national and world neighbors.

- What do you have to do to be a good neighbor? *(This list could be drawn in concentric circles starting with local in the center and working out to the global impact of being neighbors.)*
 - Start thinking locally with the people who live right next door to you.
 - Expand to the community and then community to community.
 - Expand further to consider countries as neighbors.
 - Consider what it means for continents and oceans to be neighbors.

Heifer International works with people around the world and promotes agricultural practices that honor the Earth and create a sustainable environment. One of the key elements in Heifer's approach to sustainable agriculture and ecology is called **AGROECOLOGY**.

Through Heifer training:

- Families learn how to keep their small plots of land healthy and renew the soil for future generations by planting trees and using natural fertilizer.
- They learn to practice zero- or managed-grazing techniques, which means keeping livestock in an enclosed, shaded area and carrying fodder and water to them, instead of letting them wander in the open where they are more likely to catch diseases or damage the environment.
- They learn contour planting and terracing, techniques that resist erosion.
- And they discover how to use biogas units for cooking and heating their homes.



The animals that Heifer supplies are used to provide food for hungry families. Some working animals are used to help produce the food. Water buffalo, draft horses, camels, oxen and donkeys help farmers plow fields and take produce to market. Even though these living tractors don't use any gas they produce it. Some farmers gather the manure from their draft animals and put it in tanks underground where it decays. When this kind of manure decays it produces methane gas (biogas) which can be used by the family for cooking. This is great because they don't need to cut down any trees for firewood and this helps the environment!

Best Practices Pay Off:

Wherever Heifer helps they work with the local communities. Heifer respects the values of the local community and starts each project by asking the community to lift up their strengths and dreams. It is very important to the success of a project that everyone, young, and old, men and women have a say in the project's development and implementation. Approximately 10,000 families have already benefited from Heifer's agro-ecology initiative!

To learn more about the science behind Heifer's agro-ecology initiative select one or more of the following activities.

Ecosystems:

Heifer works with farmers around the world to change the way they care for the Earth. The idea that everything and everyone must work together as neighbors for the good of all people is key to Heifer's success. The following activity helps demonstrate the interconnectedness of our environment. If one part of the environment is out of balance, the whole is compromised.

The ecosystems will be made from 2-liter bottles but it will be a system just the same.

To make an eco-system, you will need two 2-liter bottles.

Cut bottle #1 apart approximately 5" from the bottom.

Cut bottle #2 apart approximately 5" from the top.

For **younger children** you will want to pre-cut the 2-liter bottles.

Bottle #1 will become the water portion of the ecosystem.


Bottle # 2 will become the land portion of the ecosystem.

In the bottom of #1, place a small amount of gravel and add water. Give each person a small water plant. If you are providing fish add one per container and a small amount of fish food.

To create the land portion of the ecosystem put a small piece of sponge in the neck of bottle #2, holding it so the neck is down. The neck will be nested into Bottle #1. The sponge will allow water to get into the upper portion of the eco-system. Put a small amount of gravel above the sponge and then add soil above the gravel. Plant grass or other flower seeds in the soil.

To encapsulate the ecosystem put the bottom of Bottle #2 on to the top of the land portion of the eco-system. Place the encapsulated land portion into the water portion, neck down of course. Use duct tape to secure the water and land portions together.

When the ecosystem is taken home place it in a window that receives direct sunlight. See what happens over



the next week or so. They will find that they have created their own self-functioning ecosystem. The water in the bottom will breathe moisture into the soil above and the seeds will grow into plants which will breathe moisture into the air and seep back down to the water below.

Being a good neighbor can mean being careful with our environment so that it thrives – and so do we. There is a relationship between any environment, the people who live there and the way the environment is used. Caring for the Earth is one of the ways we can show our love of God and our neighbor.

Where Has All The Dirt Gone?

Often when people are desperate to survive they make poor choices. This happens when farmers cut down trees and other plants to grow gardens in poor soil. The trees and plants hold the soil in place and when they are then cut down, erosion can happen. Erosion is when water washes away the soil. Heifer works hand in hand with communities to train farmers to use better farming practices so they can maximize the yield from their land and do it in a way that restores the balance in the environment.

The following experiment will help the children see the value of vegetation in soil maintenance. When there is little vegetation on the soil it is more difficult to maintain stability particularly when the soil becomes wet. There are both natural and man-made causes for lack of vegetation. Man-made causes include deforestation, poorly engineered construction projects and urbanization.

Lay out 6 containers in a row.

In tray #1 put approximately 1/8th of a sponge in the container.

In tray #2 put approximately half of a sponge in the container.

In tray #3 put one full sponge in the container.

In tray #4 cover approximately half of the container with sponges.

In tray #5 cover approximately three quarters of the container with sponges.

In tray #6 cover the bottom of the container with sponges.

- Put equal amounts of soil over all the trays.
- Pour equal amounts of water into each tray. Use enough water to make the soil completely wet.
- Wait several minutes and see which tray absorbs the most water.
- Which tray has the “soupiest” soil?
- What happens when you tip each container?
- Does the soil move in all of them equally or not?
- Which is the most stable and which is the least stable?

The sponges in our experiment act as vegetation, plants and trees that absorb the water and keep the soil in place.

- What happens to soil when there is little or no vegetation (container #1)?
- What is the difference when there is a lot of vegetation?

Heifer works with farmers to maintain the stability of their soil by encouraging tree planting, contour plowing, terrace farming and zero or managed grazing.

“We plant five trees for every one we take up... Nature will feed us but not unless we feed nature.”
—Guatemalan farmer; Jacinto



In The Earth Is Our Life

Maria and her daughters come together and prepare seedlings for planting in order to restore their surrounding forest. She says, “Each family will take care of their own seedlings and will take these to the field to plant together. How do we involve the young with ecology? We keep it in the family.”

She goes on to say that if they don’t work together, then their efforts do not work at all.

Why do they do this? Part of the reason is proper cultivation of the environment but it’s much more than that too. “Everything we do,” Maria says, “is so much work, but we do it for our survival and our environment.”

Much of what Maria, her husband Jacinto and their children know come from surviving in the mountains. They say the rest has been a learning experience with Heifer International. In addition to the reforestation, they also have learned vegetation techniques to grow their own crops and diversify their income – which means a sustainable future for their family.

Jacinto poses with his son and daughter in the forest that he and his family work so hard to preserve. He describes his hopes in doing this work.

“We wish to prevent the drying of the Earth here in Guatemala. I remember so well when I was a little boy it rained most everyday. Today, it hardly ever rains. We plant five trees for every one we take up.”

Through all of Heifer’s work, we promote one our initiatives, Agroecology. This is a sustainable management of natural resources which focuses on achieving sustainable agriculture production. The result is longevity for the Earth’s natural resources, an improved environmental atmosphere and healthier living situations for the inhabitants of the land.

Jacinto articulates this same message. “This is why we are planting and planning for the future. Reforestation has become our work and our lives. We want to cooperate with the environment because we are related to nature. Nature will feed us but not unless we feed nature.”

How To Make Good Dirt!

"We could not plant anything but with Heifer technical support and training and the manure we have taken our abandoned land and recovered." —Lorenzo Chunga, Peru

What do plants use dirt for?

- Growing
- Holding their roots
- Getting food

What kind of dirt would you want in your garden?

- Hard, dry dirt?
- Sandy dirt that water goes right through?
- Rocky dirt?
- Moist, rich dirt?

If you don't already have good dirt what can you do? Good dirt has natural or organic material in it. This material helps keep the soil loose enough for the roots of the plant to grow. It also helps hold moisture in the soil. As the organic material decomposes, sometimes with the help of Earthworms, there are more nutrients in the soil so plants grow big and strong.

What is "Organic Gardening"?

Over the centuries farmers and scientists have worked together to develop ways to make the land produce food in a more efficient manner. We know that every choice has a consequence, sometimes more than one.

The basic understanding of an organic garden is that it uses natural processes to maintain a healthy growing environment for plants and animals. The word "organic" simply means related to living organisms. Organic gardeners use natural products to maintain the health of their soil. They use compost (decaying natural material) to feed the soil. This natural material is either worked directly into the soil or used in a liquid form (made like a tea). Organic farmers also encourage diversity. They plant vegetation that attracts certain bugs, birds and animals who eat common garden pests. They also plant a diversity of plants together, plants that each need something different from the soil. Organic gardeners work with naturally occurring cycles of life and death to maintain a healthy relationship with the environment.

Heifer encourages zero grazing so that animals don't destroy the local land by over grazing. Zero grazing also allows farmers to collect the manure from the animals to use in the compost for their fields. Compost is a vital component of organic gardening practices.

Check and see if your community composts yard wastes and if residents can purchase the composted material for use in their gardens.

- What can go into compost?

Combining a wide variety of plant material and dirt can create compost. If there is enough space you can create a small compost area in your yard (check with local regulations before you start).



Some basic ideas for a compost bin:

- You can create a compost bin with wire fencing and poles or even a garbage can.
- To create a **garbage can compost** container, begin by putting large holes at the bottom of the can. Place a layer of either compost or dirt in the bottom of the can. Layer kitchen scraps, (don't use meat as it takes longer to break down and smells a lot) dirt and other shredded organic material such as grass clippings or chopped leaves until the garbage can is full. Cover the can and let it sit for several months until all the material has decayed. Use this new compost on your garden.
- Create a small compost bin in your classroom by using a plastic container. The facilitator will have to take it home during the week and add scraps and dirt to it. The class will be able to see the transition from scraps to compost over the course of the rotation.

Bunnies Help Out

Can bunnies help after a hurricane? Sure they can. In 2005 Hurricane Stan caused a lot of destruction in Guatemala's Lake Atitlan Basin. Heifer came to help families in their recovery. The land and climate are great for producing excellent gourmet coffee. Heifer brought in rabbits to help. How do rabbits help with coffee production? Rabbit manure was used to make compost that was used to fertilize the coffee plants, which grow good coffee, which can be sold for money for education and an improved quality of life.

Heifer worked closely with the community because rabbits were not common to the area. They taught people how to take care of the rabbits and how to use their manure and also how to use rabbits for their own food. This was a new idea for the community but through training and communication the demand for rabbit meat has increased. Now because of the support from Heifer the Ija'tz Association has recovered their production cost and expects to turn a profit in the near future.

Fundraising Ideas:

- How many trees are there on your church property? Consider challenging the congregation to contribute \$5 per tree to Heifer. \$60 provides a gift of trees.
- Consider ways your congregation works to preserve the environment.
- Invite every family that recycles regularly to make a contribution to Heifer.
- Collect cans and recycle them for money. Donate the money to Heifer.
- Work with a local nursery to have a plant sale. Sell native plants that work best in your environment. Donate the profits from the sale to Heifer International.

STUDY *Feeding 5,000:*
A faith-based educational program



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Feeding 5000

WORKSHOP:

Storytelling



www.heifer.org

OUTLINE – Storytelling Workshop

Scripture: Acts 9

Connection to Heifer:

Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus is like Dan West's transformation while handing out cups of milk to people suffering from the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War. They experienced a spiritual transformation that directed the rest of their lives. Paul went on to build the international church through his testimony about Jesus as the Christ. Dan West went on to build an international organization that helps the poor become self-sufficient. They both responded to the call to act on their faith and create the presence of God here on Earth.

Objectives:

- Learn that Dan West founded Heifer International with the concept, "Not a cup, but a cow."
- Learn that Paul was transformed by an encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus and became a builder of the church.
- Heifer gives away a wide variety of animals and commodities to effectively respond to indigenous environments and cultures.

Overview:

- Dan West will tell his story about founding Heifer, supplemented with the "Dan West: Peacemaker" DVD.
- Create drip candles with the colors representing the various animals and commodities that Heifer gives. Special emphasis is on how Heifer diversified from the initial gift of heifers.
- Do Bible study about Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus.
- Finish the drip candles with white wax to represent how our awareness of God's presence calls us into action to bring the kingdom of God to Earth.

Supplies:

- Class set of Bibles
- Maps of Paul's journeys, either in the Bibles or as a poster
- Maps of Heifer presence throughout the world (See Resource Packet)
- Dan West storyteller: props (See In Advance)
- TV/DVD player if showing the "Dan West: Peacemaker" DVD
- Candle making
 - White candles for every participant. If taper candles are used, they will need to have candleholders. Pillar candles would be more practical, but more expensive.
 - Candle work stations (no more than six people at each pot of hot wax)
 - Lots of newspaper to cover work surface and surrounding floor
 - Hot plate

- Double boiler:
 - Old, disposable stainless steel or aluminum pot large enough for four tin cans
 - Four tin cans
 - Blocks of paraffin
 - Candle dye (red, yellow, blue and white)
- Drinking straws

Heifer References:

- Video: “Dan West: Peacemaker.” Order from Brethren Press at <http://www.brethrenpress.com/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=1070>
- Heifer maps of international presence: See Resource Packet
- Information about the various animals and commodities of Heifer: See Resource Packet
- Focused information on Heifer bees: See Resource Packet
- The *Living Gift Market* resource has information about many of the Heifer animals.

In Advance:

- The storyteller playing Dan West should view the video and read the script with an eye for props that he might bring in to add interest to the script. It is a 30-minute movie, too long to show to the class in its entirety. Consider showing the segment on his inspiration to start Heifer and its early organization.
- Put up the maps of Paul’s journeys and the map of Heifer presence.
- Create the candle workstations. Exercise caution in working with hot wax with children. Working with candles is messy – use lots of newspaper. Be conscious of where the workstations are in relation to electrical outlets. Prepare the double boilers. Melt the paraffin and add the dyes to the tin cans.
 - Caution: wax is flammable. If a fire breaks out, do not use water to put it out. Cover the pot with a lid, use baking soda or use a fire extinguisher. Have cool water standing by in case people get some hot wax on their skin.

LESSON – Storytelling Workshop

Enact the storytelling of Dan West:

Optional: show a portion of the “Dan West: Peacemaker” DVD.

Drip Candle Activity:

Send the participants to the candle making stations; make them aware that they should be cautious and smart around hot wax. Use a straw to drip the **colored** wax over the white candles. Dip the straw into the wax, close off the top with a finger, move the straw over the candle and release the wax by removing the finger.

Share the information about the various Heifer animals found in the *Living Gift Market*. The participants will make one drip for each animal that the teacher names. Use only the colored wax. Briefly focus on Heifer bees (see Resource Packet), connecting the concept of wax candles, beeswax and bees.

Distribute the material about the animals and facilitate a discussion about the diversity of Heifer living gifts. Imagine why Heifer moved from giving heifers to giving livestock that works the best for a particular environment. When finished, move everyone to where the Bible study will be.

Bible Study about Paul’s Conversion:

Pass out the Bibles. Instruct the class to open to Acts 9.

The Bible is split into two parts: the Old Testament or Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament. The Old Testament tells the story about the relationship between God and the people of Israel. The New Testament tells the story of Jesus Christ and the early church. The New Testament starts off with the four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These tell the story about Jesus Christ from his miraculous birth through his crucifixion and resurrection. The Book of Acts and the epistles tell the story of the early church. We are looking in the Book of Acts for the story about how Saul became Paul.

Look at the epistles. These are letters to all of the new churches that Paul established. He liked to write to them, offering counsel and advice.

Look at the journeys of Paul. He traveled around the Mediterranean Sea three times, visiting the churches that he established.

Using the maps, compare the travels of Paul as he established the early church and the breadth of presence Heifer around the world.

Discussion:

How are Paul and Dan West alike?

- They both had a transforming moment that redirected their lives.
- They both responded to God’s call.
- They both started organizations that worked locally but thought globally.

Return to the candle making stations (guided mediation):

Using only the white wax, drip the wax over the candle. Ponder how Jesus dreamed of Earth being a place that looks like the kingdom of God. Just as each drip on this candle has reminded us of the animals that Heifer gives to the poor, we know that we each make our own contributions. If we get involved in Heifer, each one of us will be helping the poor to be fed, clothed, sheltered and nurtured into their full potential.

In Matthew 25, Jesus told us how we should treat each other.

"Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." The righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?" Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Ponder how each of us can be awakened to a life of service both to Jesus and to humankind.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Lord, please awaken in our hearts a new sense that we can make a difference in someone else's quality of life. Lord, you put role models in our path to show us the way. Please shine your light in the direction you want us to go. Amen.

Fundraising Opportunities:


- Sell the candles to the congregation and donate the proceeds to Heifer bees.
- If participating in a Living Gift Market, create a booth about Heifer bees and sell the candles there.
- Invite a local beekeeper to bring in an empty hive and share why s/he got into beekeeping, how a beekeeper keeps bees and how the honey is harvested. Perhaps the local honey could be sold with an extra dollar added to the price of each container going to Heifer bees.

Dan West's Script:

I am Dan West. I lived from 1893 to 1972. Something happened to me in 1937 that changed my life. That transformation has currently helped empower 12.5 million families to become self-sufficient. I learned early on that you read the Bible and you follow Jesus. That has a way of directing your life into service to your neighbors, whether they live across the street from you or on the other side of the planet.

I was 44 years old and worked in Spain as a volunteer relief worker with the American Friends Service. Spain had just ended a nasty civil war. Many people were displaced from their homes, had no jobs or businesses, no way to make a living. They needed everything: food, clothes, shoes, shelter.

I was handing out cups of milk. Day after day, I handed out cups of milk to the same people. This was helping them in the here and now, but it wasn't helping them get back on their feet, supporting themselves with the dignity of work. I wrestled with my experiences. I was a farmer from northern Indiana. I looked out at the grassy fields and pastures that dotted the landscape of Spain. My most difficult part of my daily routine was drinking my



quart of milk, knowing a child would starve who didn't have it. In fact, that so deeply affected me that I came up with a response to people who invited me to have dessert. "I will not have cake as long as there are those in the world who don't have bread to eat."

I got an idea. When I got back home to Indiana, I went to my fellow Christian farmers. I told them that what the people of Spain needed were cows. With their own cows, they could get much needed nourishment and income from selling the milk. Young female cows are called heifers. I started to say, "Not a cup, but a cow." Virgil Mock was the first to donate; he gave three cows named Faith, Hope and Charity.

Just listen to these milestones: (refer to the Heifer map)

- In June 1944, we shipped 17 heifers to Puerto Rico.
- As soon as World War II was over, we provided tens of thousands of cattle and horses to Europe and thousands of dairy goats to postwar Japan.
- We sent chickens to South Korea after the Korean War. Today, one half of the chickens in Korea are descended from those Heifer hatching eggs.
- By 1957, the 10,000th heifer was shipped to Germany.
- In 1960, we sent a shipment of heifers to Russia as a symbol of friendship.
- By the 1960s, we were doing work in Africa.
- We broadened our focus and introduced participatory planning and the inclusion of women in training and decision-making. This flourished into WILD (Women in Livestock Development) and the Gender Equity Program.
- In the 1980s, we started to experiment with agroecological farming techniques to bring our farming practices into harmony with nature.
- We moved into urban agriculture projects with at-risk youth in major U.S. cities.
- By the year 2000, we had 598 projects in 50 countries.
- By 2002, we celebrated our 3-millionth Passing one of the Gift in China.

It has been an amazing journey. At the heart of helping the poor become self-sufficient, I have been trying to carry out Christ's message. The heart of the gospel is to meet basic human need, advocate justice for the oppressed and actively do peacemaking. I was trying to convince people who were already Christian to follow Christ more faithfully, to identify with the disadvantaged and to take up the cause of the common people of society. You read the Bible and you follow Jesus. I wanted to be part of that kingdom of God that Jesus preached about. I wanted to help bring that kingdom to Earth. How will you follow Jesus? What can you do with Heifer? What part will you play in making this world a better place?

Feeding 5000

WORKSHOP:

Make Your Own Video



OUTLINE – Make Your Own Video Workshop

Scripture: John 4:1-42

Connection to Heifer:

Jesus offered *living water* to the Samaritan Woman at the Well. In offering this living water, Jesus offered her a new life that would last for eternity. Heifer International offers a living gift, a gift that can sustain a family. With the passing on of offspring, it becomes the factor that leads whole communities out of endless poverty and hunger into self-sustenance.

Objectives:

- Jesus offered living water to the Samaritan Woman at the Well.
- Heifer has a WiLD Program (Women in Livestock Development).
- Heifer has two programs that enable churches to organize a fundraiser:
 - The Living Market
 - Fill the Ark
- Heifer living gifts are customized to fit the local culture and environment.

Overview:

- The Samaritan Woman and Sharada from Nepal will tell their stories of transformation, using a Lota Bowl to convey the idea of *living water*.
- Learn about the WiLD program and its focus on gender equity.
- Introduce either the Fill the Ark Program or the Living Market Program.
Note: the class focus is not to set up these programs but to advertise the various animals.
- Research the animals and commodities that Heifer offers to communities.
- Make video ads for the various commodities to run during the fundraising event or as advertising in advance of such an event.
- Watch the videos and brainstorm ideas for how to get everyone involved in the fundraiser.

Supplies:

- Video camera and film
- Media for viewing videos created in class (TV or projector)
- Props associated with each animal and commodity on the Heifer list (Be creative.) Challenge the congregation to help by requesting stuffed animals, costumes and masks associated with the master list. (**See resource re: The Gift Ark.**) Poster board and markers would also be valuable.
- Atlases and globes
- Costumes: a biblical costume for the Samaritan Woman at the Well and a long shawl clasped at the shoulder for Sharada.

- **Optional:** There is a very cool prop called a **Lota Bowl**. It is a doubled-chambered metal vase. When you pour from it for the first time, it appears to empty the bowl. Within minutes, the second time you pour from it, it releases more water. This can occur more times than you would ever want to pour from the vase. It is very effective in telling the story of *living water*, as it appears to be an ever-flowing stream. The eyes of the participants, especially children, continue to grow larger each time the vase appears to empty and then pours forth again. The script assumes that you have this prop; if you do not have the Lota Bowl, adjust the lesson.

Sources for *Lota Bowl*:

- a. Check to see if there is a magician (whether in the congregation or locally) who owns one and would be willing to lend it out.
- b. Most magic shops have them, ranging from \$35 to \$75.
- c. One Way Street sells them (www.onewaystreet.com or 1-800-569-4537).

You will also need another jug to pour the water into.

Heifer References:

- All materials related to the Living Market and Fill the Ark programs
- Heifer information about each animal (formally in Animal Crackers)
- WiLD Program: The Heifer website has a great resource about WiLD found at <http://www.heifer.org/site/c.edJRKQNiFiG/b.2607575/>
- There are good maps in “Heifer International: Our Work and Organization.”
- www.heifer.org

In Advance:

- Invite two people to be the storytellers: Samaritan Woman at the Well and Sharada from Nepal. Get the scripts to them early so that they have time to rehearse. One of the storytellers could be the teacher.
- The purpose of this workshop is to involve the Sunday School in congregational fundraising for Heifer. Each class participates in making promotional videos for the various animals and commodities that Heifer places in a particular community. Therefore, the church should decide in advance whether the videos are going to be used to:
 - Dispense the individual arks to families for the Fill the Ark Program. This is a program where banks and a monthly calendar are sent home.
 - Launch a Living Market. This is a program where the congregation sets up a market that “sells” the whole menagerie of animals Heifer offers.
- It is not the purpose of this workshop to actually set up the fundraising program. Heifer has resources that spell out the details for set up. This workshop is making promotional videos for the various livestock.
- Set up an area with all of the research about the animals, the props for the video, poster board/markers, the atlas and globes.

LESSON – Make Your Own Video Workshop

- Set up the video camera. Consider bringing in a person to run the videotaping while the teacher directs the action.
- Regarding the videos, there are two options:
 - Focusing on one for the whole group, the animal or commodity can be pre-determined (better for younger children).
 - Enabling several videos to be produced in one session, individuals and small groups may choose which animal or commodity they want to advertise. This is better for older children and adults who will do some research and lend their own creativity to their video.
- Note that there are two storytellers: the Samaritan Woman at the Well and Sharada from Nepal. Just as their stories intertwine, so does their storytelling, one sentence at a time. Set up a table with the Lota Bowl full of water and a second jug.

Enact the Script of the Samaritan Woman at the Well and Sharada from Nepal

Optional: For older children and adults

Discussion and information about WiLD (Women in Livestock Development)

The following is a snippet from the website: <http://www.heifer.org/site/c.edJRKQNiFiG/b.2607575/>

Roughly two-thirds of the world population lives on less than \$2 per day and most of them are women and children. To empower women is to strengthen family networks. Men and women share project decision-making, animal ownership, labor and benefits. Gender equity is one of the cornerstones of Heifer, focusing on helping women care for themselves, their families, the Earth and each other. This builds stronger families and communities. A project can be designated as WiLD if 70 percent or more of the participants are women.

Sabritra Guragain has a story similar to Saharda. She also comes from Nepal and was married off to a man from a neighboring village at the age of 15. In 1999, she formed a group of 15 desperately poor women from her area. They each contributed 11 Nepalese Rupees (\$0.16) monthly toward a group fund. By August of 2000, each member of the group received a buffalo from Heifer. She says, "The buffalo was a boon that transformed by life." With the income from surplus milk, the group members saved money toward passing on the gift. Required to pass on the gift within three years, Guragain completed the pass-on in just 11 months. "I could not see my suffering neighbor wait longer for the gift." Today, she is a leader in her village. She guided the group to improve roads, build a public pit toilet and mediate conflicts. They built a school for those who were excluded by the caste system, promising that no one will be left behind. And with truly generous and grateful hearts, they donated money to Heifer Cambodia.

Discuss:

Discuss with the class how they perceive gender equity in their everyday lives. Can they perceive issues that might be a roadblock for women? Can they see the relationship between denying girls the right to an education and keeping them in a state of poverty?

Heifer Fundraising: Fill the Ark and The Living Market

Introduce the concept of the program that your church is initiating, how it works and how individual contributions can transform lives.

Video Promotions of Animals

The class will not set up the program; it will promote it. The class will make videos for the various animals and commodities for which the church can donate money.

Younger children:

In advance, choose one animal to highlight. Bring in as many things as possible related to that animal. For example, if sheep are the chosen animal for the video promotion, bring in stuffed animal sheep, raw wool, processed wool, sheep cheese, sheep jackets, shepherd's crooks. These serve as props for the video.



Options for the video:

- Think of riddles for the animal, i.e. sheep.
I'm wooly.
I need a shepherd.
I can stray.
What am I?
- Do the research and find out what the animal has to offer.
- Tell or enact a story about a person who received that Heifer animal.
- Include cost and value.

Older children and adults:

These people will be happy to work alone or in small groups. Look through the Project Profiles booklet for stories that highlight the success of a particular Heifer gift. Make use of the atlas and globes. Identify the relationship between the commodity and the indigenous culture. Using the resources in "How to Use This Resource," learn about the assets of each animal or commodity and how they fit into the geography and culture of an area.

Once the brainstorming is complete, figure out

- Who is going to do have what role?
- Where is everyone going to stand?
- Who is going to say what?
- Who and when is anyone moving?

Rehearse once.

Record.

By the end of the rotation, there should be more than a handful of video segments about various animals. The composite video can be shown

- As a promo for the launch of the Fill the Ark or Living Market program.
- Outside the entry of a Living Market.
- On the day that the arks are collected.

Always show the class the video they made.

Brainstorm a possible group challenge to collect money for Heifer. For instance, collect nickels for the number of shoes in a household. Ponder that poverty leaves no room for shoes. A contribution to Heifer leads to self-sufficiency where basic needs, like shoes, can be met.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Lord, we thank you for having such an active hand in our lives. We thank you for the opportunity to pass on our abundance so that others may live in dignity. Amen.



Script for Samaritan Woman at the Well and Sharada from Nepal:

SAMARITAN: I am the Samaritan Woman at the well.

SHARADA: I am Sharada from Nepal.

SAMARITAN: An unmarried woman has no value here.

SHARADA: A married woman with a husband who abandons her has no value here.

SAMARITAN: I go to the well alone at the height of day when the sun is the hottest just to avoid the gossiping women in town.

SHARADA: I am the source of scorn and hostility because my husband and I can't support ourselves.

SAMARITAN: I have been married five times and am living with a man who puts a roof over my head.

SHARADA: I was forced into an arranged marriage at the age of 17. My husband frequently works in another town and I live with my in-laws to keep a roof over our heads. They resent that they have more mouths to feed with the addition of me and the children.

SAMARITAN: One day I went to the well.

SHARADA: One day I went to my father-in-law.

SAMARITAN: A Jewish man asked me to give him some water.

SHARADA: I asked my father-in-law for my husband's share of family property.

SAMARITAN: When I gave him the cup, he offered me *living water*. **(Pour the Lota Bowl).**

SHARADA: He offered me a cattle shed and a calf.

SAMARITAN: If I had living water, would that mean that I wouldn't have to go to the well everyday?

SHARADA: If I had my own space, could I support my son and me?

SAMARITAN: I could see he was a prophet.

SHARADA: We lived on one side of the cattle shed; the cows and oxen lived on the other.

SAMARITAN: This man talked to me about God searching for me.

SHARADA: I heard about a group of women who were part of Heifer. **(Pour the Lota Bowl).**

SAMARITAN: If God was searching for me, I knew that the Messiah was coming.

SHARADA: I became a member of Annapurna Women Group in 2004.

SAMARITAN: Jesus told me, "I am the Messiah."



SHARADA: They saw me as a person of potential.

SAMARITAN: I had to pass this news onto the other villagers. The Messiah was at our well! The Anointed One. The Christ. The Son of God! **(Pour the Lota Bowl).**

SHARADA: I received gifts from Heifer of a pair of goats and training on how to raise and manage them.

SAMARITAN: I ran into the village and cried out, “Come and see!”

SHARADA: Within two years, I passed on my offspring to another group of women.

SAMARITAN: The villagers came out to meet this man. I found out his name was Jesus.

SHARADA: With more training, I invested in buffaloes, vegetable production and poultry farming.
(Pour the Lota Bowl).

SAMARITAN: We all invited Jesus and his disciples to stay with us.

SHARADA: I’ve been saving money. We live in a newly built house that I paid for. My children go to school.

SAMARITAN: Jesus gave me new life. It was like that living water he talked about.

SHARADA: Heifer gave me new life. I feel like I have control of my own destiny.

SAMARITAN AND SHARADA: (Pour the Lota Bowl.) Living Water.