



Photo: Indonesia, Shanley Studio

CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

BY  **CWS**
Church World Service

REFUGEES | HUNGER | WATER

WORSHIP RESOURCES 2018

Nine Sundays' worth of resources to highlight this year's CROP Hunger Walk, arranged chronologically. Lectionary-based worship resources, videos, children's time and liturgies are all included.

Thanks to Rev. Dr. Paula B. Nordhem from the South of the River CROP Hunger Walk for compiling this resource!

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 16, Psalm 78:23-29, manna;
John 6:24-35 loaves and fishes

CHILDREN'S TIME

Ask the children (and everyone) what we're like and what it feels like to be hungry (sad, angry, empty, not thinking well, no energy, cranky, tired, etc). The people in the wilderness for 40 years had to rely on God for their food and water and that sometimes made them cranky, especially if they couldn't see where the food and water would come from. An empty cupboard or refrigerator at home might feel the same. And imagine how we feel when there's food but not enough for everyone in the house or even just for ourselves. How does that feel? Jesus' disciples were scared and a bit cranky because they couldn't see how 5 loaves and two fish could feed thousands of people. How can we feed others, even those we don't know? Through our efforts with the CROP Walk, we can be the ones providing food that others can't yet see.

God, help us be the source of food in your name for those who are hungry and don't have enough. Because everything we have and everything we give comes from you. Amen.



LITURGY

Call to Worship

LEADER: We give praise to our God who gathers us as one people.

PEOPLE: We delight in our God who has mercy upon us.

LEADER: We seek to be one with refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants.

PEOPLE: Clear our eyes that we may see the sufferings of displaced people.

LEADER: We welcome those whose lives have been dislocated by war, famine and injustice.

PEOPLE: Open our ears that we may hear the cries of those deep in despair.

LEADER: We express our solidarity with all who search for a new life, a new home, a new promise.

PEOPLE: Guide our feet that we may spread comfort; loosen our tongues that we might speak words of hope.

LEADER: Give us open hearts that we may be truly welcoming to the stranger in our midst.

ALL: God remind us that through our acts of hospitality we are restored to you. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 19:4-8, Psalm 34:1-8 Oh Taste and See; John 6: Bread of Life

CHILDREN'S TIME

The prophet Elijah was a special messenger for God for the people of Israel. But, Elijah was tired and felt he had not done well enough for the Lord. So, he ran away into the wilderness and asked to die. He was sad and afraid. How did God respond? What do you think God did? God sent an angel and offered Elijah food and water because God was not disappointed in Elijah but had more for him to do. It was special food and water and lasted for a long time as Elijah went to the mountain of God to hear God's voice. God knows we need food and water to live our lives and do God's will.

Dear God, you teach us that we need food and water to keep going. Help us to be the angels for others, to bring food and water for those who are tired, scared, hungry, and thirsty. We help feed others because you fed Elijah. Amen.

LITURGY

Prayers of the People

God, we pray for your children, all over the world, displaced by human disaster. Lord, we hear the cries of the suffering; we see the violence in our midst.

We pray for our brothers and sisters in sub-Saharan Africa – Mali, Somalia, Sudan and Eritrea; we grieve the nearly 16 years of conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo – the unrest, the millions displaced; we mourn the murders, disappearances, mass rape and torture; we mourn the millions of refugees forced to live in overcrowded camps and urban slums with no opportunities for work or recreation.

We pray for your children in East Asia, the Near East, South Asia and Latin America; we pray for Burmese refugees forced to flee continued conflict, seeking essential services like healthcare and education. We pray for your children in Iraq, Palestine, Afghanistan, Iran, Tibet, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Syria; we pray for all those displaced by violence and unrest, for those forced to leave their homes with no hope of return, for those without appropriate documentation or means of economic livelihood.

God, we pray for all your people and for your church; we pray that you might strengthen us and sustain us with your Spirit, your mercy and your grace; allow us to heed your call to welcome the stranger in our midst; open our minds that we learn from and be challenged by difference; open our hearts that we might act in compassionate service towards the other. Amen.

FEATURED VIDEOS

[The Global Refugee Crisis](#)

[The CROP Hunger Walk difference along Nicaragua's Rio Coco](#)



Children paint at a center for refugees in Belgrade, Serbia.

HUNGER WEEK 3

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 111, food and covenant; Proverbs 9:
Eat my bread; John 6: Jesus as Living Bread

CHILDREN'S TIME

Bring a small pot with a vegetable seedling for each child. Imagine together: How old does a person have to be to grow food? To raise chickens? To pull weeds? To pick lettuce? To dig in the dirt? How old does a person have to be to help someone else?

Dear God, help us to know that we can do things when we're very young and very old and in between. And we can always be helpers in your good name. Amen.

LITURGY

Holy and merciful God, You have created us all in your image; we exist because of the radical welcome that You granted each one of us at birth; You have created us as refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants; You have called us to be your hands and feet in the world, to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked and set the captives free; God, hear our prayer for peace, for justice, for community; hear our prayer for your will on earth to be as it is in heaven. God, be with us now, empower us, guide us, sustain us and glorify us in your name. Amen.



SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 8: drought and famine; Psalm 84, God as Refuge; John 6: Bread of Life

CHILDREN'S TIME

Bring photos of places with and without water. Let's think about water. Let's imagine where it comes from: brainstorm all the places we know (faucet, hose, sky, river, lake, ocean, etc). How does water become unclean and not safe to drink or wash in? Ask for examples. What did the people in the village in Kenya do to find clean water when their river water wasn't safe? What difference did it make for the people there? Or, how did the people in Gran Chaco find ways to collect safe water from the sky?

Dear God, may we all have a source of water for life and may our water be safe. May we help others find good water, too, in your name. Amen.

FEATURED VIDEOS

[Water in the Chaco](#)

[Avoiding drought in Kenya \(OLDER\)](#)



LITURGY



God of life,
God of all those who walk
miles for water,
God of those whose only
supply is contaminated,
bringing death, not life.
May water, clean and life-
giving, be available to
every living creature.
May that vision move
forward.
May your will be done.
Great Britain

SCRIPTURE

James 1: Every generous act of giving;
Mark 7: what we put into our mouths

CHILDREN'S TIME

Explore with them why we care about people in the world we don't know. Why does Joe the plumber care about his neighbors? Why does it matter to us if someone is hungry or thirsty or has no home or school? How does someone feeling lost or sad affect us? How does someone's well-being make us happy? God wants us to covenant with all people even those who are "alien" and far from their homes. What does Joe mean when he says he is blessed?

FEATURED VIDEOS

[Rebuilding Homes & Schools after Hurricane Matthew in Haiti](#)

[How Your Blessings Get Bigger: Joe in Houston](#)



LITURGY

Intercessions

For the people of Syria For the United Nations, our own nation, and the fellowship of nations
For refugees, and those in harm's way
For peacemakers, relief workers, and policy makers
For the voices of peoples of faith, that we may have courage, grace, integrity and the strength to listen and to speak.

Prayers of the People

Oh God, our creator and liberator, we pray for all those who face the trials and tribulations of exclusion. We lift up all those who have been made outcast in our world; for those impoverished by inequality, for those who find themselves in the cold from homelessness, for those who are treated differently because of their skin color or religious background. Today we say a special prayer for all the refugees in the world who have faced violence and persecution. Now many of them face discrimination upon arriving to the safety of this land. Strengthen our faith to be accepting to all and fortify our witness to advocate for just and humane policies that expand the path of welcome for refugees to join our communities. In the same way, we pray for all those who face sickness and disease, in our congregation and throughout our community, may Your blessing comfort them and may Your healing power touch them. In the Spirit of love and compassion we pray. Amen.

WEEK 6

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 22: be generous;;Psalm 125, water and harvest; Isaiah 35: water!; Psalm 146, refugees, food to the hungry; James 2, honor the poor, love your neighbor

CHILDREN'S TIME

Water: bring containers of water. Ask the children to carry them and tell how it feels. Bring a container of muddy water and one of clean water. Ask them how far they would travel to drink the clean water.

LITURGY

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord,
For God has refreshed the parched earth.

All: We praise you, O God.

Leader: Rejoice for the rain that falls by night, and soaks at once into the dry ground, causing half-dried-up roots to swell, and the deep cracks in the earth to close.

All: We praise you, O God.

Leader: Rejoice for the great drops that fall at midday; rejoice in the small streams, singing on their way from the hills down into the valleys, to make the rivers swell and fill the reservoirs and supply the cities and irrigation channels with water.

All: We praise you, O God.

Leader: For the ground, for rain, for seeds and tools, for strength in arms and backs, for the will to work and for creative minds.

All: We praise you, O God.

FEATURED VIDEOS

[Who is your neighbor?](#)

[Meet your neighbors](#)

[Safe water during flooding in Myanmar](#)



This family in Vietnam uses a biosand filter to purify water for drinking.

WELCOMING THE CHILD

WEEK 7

SCRIPTURE

Mark 9, welcome the child; James 3-4, harvest of righteousness

CHILDREN'S TIME

Tell us what you had for breakfast today. Where did you eat it? Can you fix your own breakfast? What do you have to do to make breakfast? Did you chop wood, build a fire, pick food from the garden, chop and mash the food, cook it, find an egg from your chickens, eat? Did the food in the video make you hungry? Which breakfast would you rather eat and why?

Dear God,

Thank you for Maria who makes breakfast for her children. We ask that you make sure, with our help, that everyone has a good breakfast here in our neighborhood and everywhere in the world. Amen.

FEATURED VIDEOS

[Children of Incarcerated Parents](#)

[Maria's Breakfast Recipe \(OLDER\)](#)



LITURGY

Call to Worship

Leader: Creator of all, we gather today thankful that you have welcomed us.

All: We give thanks that through our hardest times, God has heard our cry.

Leader: Just as God has accompanied us on our journey, we are called to walk alongside those who have been mistreated, persecuted and outcast.

All: Together as a faith community, we are called to be a space of love and safe refuge for all people.

Leader: Let us work together with refugees and immigrants from many different lands to welcome them in, and let us pray that the crisis in Syria might soon end, so displaced people can someday return to their homeland.

All: As we wait for You to answer these prayers, we re-commit ourselves to be a welcoming congregation lifting up immigrants and refugees in our midst and preparing ourselves to advocate with them by our side. Amen.

Photo: Indonesia, Shanley Studio

HUNGER WEEK 8

SCRIPTURE

Esther: 7 and 9, day of feasting, give to the poor;
Numbers 11: God provides quail in the wilderness

CHILDREN'S TIME

Bring with you a photo of a hen with chicks or just a hen. Brainstorm with the children how one hen can feed a family (laying eggs, more chicks, more hens, etc.) Then ask them how one hen can be the start to feeding a small town. Bring with you a few packs of seeds for vegetables. Brainstorm with the children how one or more packs of seeds can feed a family; and then how those seed packs can be the start to feeding a small town. Brainstorm with them how much a hen or a few packs of seeds costs. Then brainstorm with them how one person raising \$50/\$100 (whatever the amount you name) can provide the start to feeding a family and/or feeding a small town. Imagine with them how many people 100 people raising \$100 each and walking in the CROP Hunger Walk can help begin to make it possible for a small town to have what's needed to provide their own food from now on.

Dear God, give us the imagination to see what is possible with one hen and a few packs of seeds. And let the good eating for all begin! Amen.

LITURGY

Sharing the Loaves and Fishes:

Sharing the loaves and fishes,
You gave us an image of solidarity with the hungry, O Lord.
Sharing yourself in the bread and wine,
You called all to the table, O Lord.
Give me the hunger to be a part of the feeding
And the healing of this world.
Nourish me with your Grace,
So I may work with joy to serve your children.
Open my eyes and my heart
To recognize those in poverty
And increase my awareness
Of the structures and systems
That need to be changed
So we may all break bread together.
In your name we pray for the end of hunger.

FEATURED VIDEOS

[Chickens & Vegetables:
a one-two punch against hunger](#)

[The mission of CWS](#)



WEEK 9

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 2: creatures of the air, sea and earth, be fruitful;
Psalm 8: be stewards of our creatures, Mark 10: little children

CHILDREN'S TIME

Today, everywhere in the world, Christians are celebrating communion or eucharist. Does anyone know who offered the first communion meal? And who was there to eat and drink with Jesus? We remember this time because it was for fellowship and for eating together. Communion means being strong together. So, we honor Jesus when we find ways to make sure that everyone can eat and drink good food and safe water which makes the whole world strong and have a feeling of togetherness. Everyone is welcome to Jesus' table so we can be strong together!

LITURGY

[CROP Hunger Walk Hymn](#): "Step up, step out for Crop Walk, you people of the Way; Walk tall, walk proud with feeling, enjoy this festal day!"

FEATURED VIDEOS

[Raise Your Voice](#)

[CROP Hunger Walks:
We can do so much in 2018](#)



CWS Regional Director Martin Coria (right) with a family who participates in a CROP Hunger Walk-supported program in Nicaragua.