



HARVEST RE ASSEMBLIES for Primary Schools

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Theme: Caring for Others – The Greedy Farmer (Harvest)

Memory Verse: “Don’t let good advice go in one ear and out the other.” (Proverbs 4:2)

Welcome: Welcome the children, introduce Fun Fish, and explain the theme.

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: Learn the memory line. Use the memory line cards to play a game.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): The Parable of the Greedy Farmer.

Cast: Narrator

Farmer

Farm hand

Materials needed:

Hats for farmer and helpers

Four chairs draped with material for barns

Corn, grapes, wheat

Buckets for collecting food

White sheet for Jesus

Garden tools.

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Have you ever had to share something and you didn’t want to? What did you do? How did you feel?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, help us to share and care for others. Amen.”

Sing a song:



Story: Caring for Others – The Greedy Farmer (Luke 12)

One man ran up to Jesus. “Jesus, my brother won’t share with me,” he said. “Make him give me what belongs to me.”

“It isn’t good to be greedy!” said Jesus. “Life is more than having lots of things.” Then Jesus told this story...

Once upon a time there was a very rich farmer. He was so rich he had two big barns. His soil was the best in the land.

The farmer had a problem too. He loved corn on the cob. So what did he do? He yelled for his servants. “Servants, plant a field of corn and make those rows straight.”

The servants bowed. “Yes master.”

At harvest time the farmer yelled again. “Servants, pick the corn.” The servants ran and filled one barn completely full.

The farmer had another problem. He loved toast for breakfast. What should he do? He yelled for his servants. “Servants, plant me two big fields of wheat.”

They groaned to each other. “He already has so much. Why can’t he share?”

At harvest time the farmer yelled again. “Servants, cut the wheat and filled up the last barn.”

“Yes, master. Whatever you say,” grumbled the servants.

It seemed the farmer had lots of problems. He loved raisins for lunch. “Servants,” he yelled, “picked the grapes and dried them out.”

“Where shall we put them?” the servants asked. “The barns were full.”

The farmer scratched his head. “I know what I will do. I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones, the biggest barns in the world. I’ll plant more crops and fill up those barns. Soon I’ll be the richest man on earth and never have to work.” The farmer smiled to himself. “I always take care of number one. Pity others aren’t as lucky as me.”

God looked down from heaven and shook his head. “Mr. Farmer, you’ve got it all wrong. The number one thing is to care for others. Imagine if you were to die, others would get it all anyways. So you should change your mind.”

...Jesus stopped the story there. He looked around and said, “Don’t be greedy and try to get rich. Show you care and share with others.”



Theme: Showing Kindness – Ruth and Boaz (Harvest)

Welcome: MC welcomes children, introduces Fun Fish and theme.

Memory Line: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” Mark 12:31

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: Teach the memory line to the children. Use memory line cards and turn it into a game.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “Ruth and Boaz” (Ruth 1 – 4)

Materials needed:

Field with some grain on one side of stage

A well

The house on the other side of the stage.

Cast: Narrator

Naomi and Ruth

Boaz

Workers in the field

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): What does it mean to be kind? What are some kind things we can do for our friends?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, thank you for the kind things people do for me. Please help me to be kind as well. Amen.”

Sing a song: If You’re Happy and You Know It... say, ‘Be kind!’

...Wave Good Bye

**Story: Showing Kindness – Ruth and Boaz (Ruth 1 - 4)**

A long time ago there were two widows, Naomi and Ruth. A widow is someone whose husband has died. They lived in the same house, but they were very poor.

Now Naomi was old. She couldn't go out to work. Ruth was young. She went out to look for work. But what was she going to do?

It was harvest time and Ruth saw some men working in a field. She noticed that they had dropped an ear of corn. She ran and picked up the corn. She put it in her pocket.

Now, you might think that Ruth was stealing. But in that country poor people could do that. They were allowed to pick up anything that had been left behind by the harvesters.

Soon Ruth's pockets were completely full, and Ruth hurried home. "Look, Naomi," she called. "We can have supper tonight."

Naomi hobbled over and looked at all the corn Ruth had pulled from her pockets. "Where did you get all this food? This is amazing!"

Ruth nodded. "I heard the field belongs to a man called Boaz."

"Boaz!" said Naomi. "He is a distant relative. I want you to stay with his harvesters. Boaz is a good man." So Ruth did what Naomi said.

One day Boaz came to see how the harvesters were doing. He noticed Ruth. "Who is that young woman?" he asked the harvesters.

"That's Ruth," said the harvesters. "She's the one who takes food home to Naomi."

Boaz smiled. "Ruth," he called, "I want you to stay with my harvesters. They will make sure you are safe. And please drink as much water from the well as you want."

Ruth bowed down to the ground. "Oh, sir! Who am I that you should show me such kindness? I am just a poor widow."

Boaz smiled again. "You have been kind to Naomi. May God be kind to you as well."

God was very kind. Not long after Boaz and Ruth got married, and Naomi came to live with them. So you see, if you show kindness, it helps others to show kindness too.



Theme: SEEDS TO PLANT – Being Generous (Harvest)

Memory Line: “For everything God made is good.” (1 Timothy 4:4)

Welcome: MC welcomes children, introduces Fun Fish and theme.

Sing a Song:

Puppet Introduces Theme: Use a washing line, clothes pegs, three event picture and “SEEDS to Plant” card. Memory Line

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “Seeds to Plant” (Matthew 13: 3 – 9)

Materials needed:

Corn stalk (if you can find one in a garden somewhere)

Corn on the cob

Corn seed

Watering can

Stone

Weeds

Cast: narrator

Farmer

Puppets Chat on Theme (interactive): Why is it good to be generous? What are some good things we can give to others?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, help us to be generous and help others when they are in need. Amen”

Sing a song: If you’re Happy and You Know...Give to all ...

...Wave Good Bye

...Sit up Straight

Story: Seeds to Plant – Being Generous (Matthew 13: 3 – 9)

There is a harvest story from long ago, but it is still true today. It is about a clever farmer, amazing seeds, and generosity. It takes all three to have a harvest.

Let's hear that story...

What if there was a farmer who planted a corn seed on a path? Every time he walked down that path, he would step on it. It didn't matter how much he watered the seed, it would never have a chance to grow. No seed can grow on a path.

What if that farmer planted that corn seed on a rock? He watered it. He sat down beside all day long, watching it. "Grow seed, grow!" he could say, trying to help it along. But that seed would never grow. No seed can grow on a rock.

What if that farmer planted his corn seed in weeds? That seed wouldn't grow. The weeds would take all the sunlight and rain. No seed can grow in weeds.

But the farmer is clever. He takes his corn seed and plants it in good soil. He waters it, and it grows, and grows and grows. Every corn seed can grow in good soil.

That clever farmer knows a secret as well. He knows that a corn seed is amazing. When that one little corn seed grows up, the farmer won't find just one little corn seed on a stalk, he will find one, two, three, four, five ears of corn.

"Hurray!" he shouts as he picks the corn.

He sits down and opens one ear. It has hundreds of seeds inside. "What a harvest!" he shouts. "Now I can share this food with everyone. Everyone will have plenty to eat."

Harvest is about a clever farmer, amazing seeds, and generosity. Let's all be like that farmer and seed, clever and generous in everything we do.



Theme: Planting Love – From a Seed to a Tree (Harvest)

Memory Line: “Always try to be kind.” (1 Thessalonians 5: 15)

Sing Songs:

Welcome: Introduce Fun Fish team and “Planting Love.”

Puppet Act Out Bible Theme:

Puppet is given a package of seeds. He doesn’t know what to do with them. Another puppet shows him how.

Bible Story (spontaneous drama with children): “From a Seed to a Tree (Luke 13:19)

Cast needed:

Narrator

Farmer

Friends

Materials needed:

Spade

Soil

Small Seeds

Other kinds of seeds

Puppets Chat about Theme (interactive):

We can also plant kindness everywhere we go. What does it feel like when someone is nice to us? What do we feel like when we are nice to others?

Short Prayer: “Dear God, help us to always be nice to people. Help us to think of others and their needs. Amen.”

Sing a song: “Be kind. Be fair...”

Story: Planting Love – From a Seed to a Tree - (Harvest)

In the Bible there is a story so important it is told three times. But it is also one of the shortest stories in the Bible. In Luke 13:19 it is 25 words long.

“A mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches.”

Here is a longer version.

There once was a man who looked at his garden. “I want to plant a seed,” he said, “the smallest seed I can find.”

He hurried to the shop to look for that seed, but all he found were giant ones. Coconuts and avocados. Mangos and Peaches. “Those seeds are too big,” he said.

He took a walk in the woods to look, but all he found were middle sized seeds. Acorns and pinecones. Chestnuts and plums. “These seeds are still too big,” he said.

He went back home and sat on his chair. He scratched his head and thought. “I know,” he said. “I remember a package of mustard seed in the shed.”

He ran to the shed and pulled out the package, and took out a tiny seed. “I shall plant you,” he said to the seed, and hurried outside to dig a small hole. He planted the seed and covered it with soil. He patted it down and watered it well.

Every day he looked at the seed and soon it started to sprout. A little green shoot and then a leaf. He watered it again and watched it grow. He took pictures to show his friends.

“Look at my plant,” he said to his friends. “It started out small.” He showed them a seed. “Now it is big like a tree.”

“We have to see this,” the friends said. “No seed can grow that big.”

They went to the garden and looked around. “Where is the plant?” they said.

“There,” said the man and pointed to a tree. “Look! There are birds in the branches too.” Then he smiled. “You know, God is like that. He puts his love in our hearts and we can’t see the seed. Then it grows and fills us with kindness.”

“We want seeds like that,” said the friends.

Theme: Everyone is a Treasure (story only) (Matthew 13:44)

Here is a parable, a story Jesus told in the Bible: There was once a poor man. He worked hard in his boss's field, ploughing, planting, harvesting. He did this year in and year out. One autumn as he dug up the soil, he heard a "CLUNK." The poor man fell to his knees and dug down to see what it was. He pulled out a rusty box tied with rotten rope.

He looked over one shoulder and the other to make sure the boss wasn't looking. Then he opened it. Inside he saw jewels, pearls, diamond necklaces, ancient gold coins. He threw his hand across his mouth to hold back a scream.

What was he supposed to do? The law said treasure belonged to the man who owned the field. The poor man decided to buy that field. He dug an even deeper hole and buried the box. Then he paced to the end of the field so that he could find the treasure box again. Fifty-four steps.

He ran to the boss. "Boss, I would like to buy the field where I work. I want to start up my own vegetable business."

The boss nodded. "How about £100? A good idea. I don't want that field."

"Deal. I'll get the money as soon as I can."

The poor man ran home and sold everything, his sofa, his table and chair, his bed, everything, even his sandals. Then he sold his little house.

He had £102! More than enough to buy the land. He sprinted barefooted to see the boss and happened to look in a shop window. He skidded to a stop and hurried inside. "May I buy those sandals, please? I've always wanted a pair like that."

"£4," said the clerk.

The poor man dug into his money bag. Suddenly he said, "Wait a minute. What am I doing here?" He dashed outside and found his boss. "Here is the money, boss," he said.

The boss smiled and counted it up. "The field is yours, but you gave me extra."

"Keep the change," the poor man shouted as he ran into his field. He paced out fifty-four steps, and dug up the box. "I'm a rich man now," he sang, and he really was!

Lesson: Everyone is a treasure box, and we can put whatever we want in our hearts. If we put good things in our hearts we will shine like jewels. Good things like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Theme: Seeds (story only): Edgar and Priscilla in a Boat

Edgar Ostrich and Priscilla Parrot should be happy. They were on holiday in the middle of the ocean in their rowing boat. "I'm bored," sighed Edgar.

"Me too," Priscilla said and then she squawked. "I have an idea. Let's plant some of our delicious tomato seeds. You go to Africa and I'll go to England. Let's see if the same kind of seed grows differently on different continents.

"Brilliant," Edgar screeched. "But I'm taking the boat. I hate heights."

"Fine with me," Priscilla said and lifted off, her blue wings flashing in the sun.

Edgar planted his tomato seed in Africa and Priscilla planted hers in England. Then they waited three months and Skyped each other. Priscilla hopped up and down when she saw her friend on the screen. "Hi Edgar, is your tomato seed a tomato now?"

Edgar showed her a pot with a small plant and one tiny tomato on it. "It is tiny, but definitely a tomato," he said. "Show me yours, Priscilla."

Priscilla had a huge plant with big tomatoes on it. "Why is yours so small?" she asked.

"We're in the middle of a drought and no plant can grow in that."

"It's rained all summer here," Priscilla said. Then she paused. "I have a question for you."

"Yes?"

"Do you think that ground is like our hearts and seeds are like words of kindness? Do you think if I planted a kind thought in your heart, you would be kind to others?"

"Try me," Edgar said.

Priscilla cleared her throat. "You, Edgar are wonderful, lovely, smart and strong."

Edgar flapped his wings in delight and ran around talking to everyone. "Hey, I like your jumper. You there, great hair style. Madam, I like your shoes."

"Edgar, Edgar," Priscilla shouted, calling him back. "Did it work? Were you kind to others?"

"I sure was."

Priscilla thought some more. "If I said something nasty, would you still be happy?"

Edgar shook his beak. "No. I'd be sad and cross with you at the same time."

"So, Edgar, we can plant kindness just like a tomato seed. We can plant it anywhere. Kindness has the same language all over the world."