

For children

These activities are designed to be used in Sunday Schools and children's groups although you may wish to use some of them in an all-age service. Each section of this plan has a main activity designed for children aged 6-8. There are also ideas for how to adapt this activity for younger children (aged 3-6) or older children (aged 8-11).

Matching pairs

You will need matching pair cards comprising of *Source of food* cards and *Product* cards (see appendix).

Main activity: There are matching pairs cards in the appendix of this document. Cut these out and lay them on the table face-up. Ask the children to match the *Source of the food* cards (e.g. cow) with the *Product* cards (e.g. milk.) Talk about the fact that although most of us don't grow crops or rear animals ourselves, we eat things that have been harvested from around the world. Today is a harvest festival to say thank you to God for all the wonderful things he has given us, including our food.

For younger children: Print two copies of the *Source of the food* cards and ask children to take turns to find the identical pairs. Ask the children what the picture is of and talk about the food that is produced.

For older children: Play Memory. Lay the *Source of the food* and *Product* cards face down on the table (you may wish to print out the cards on cardboard rather than paper so children cannot see the picture on the other side). The children take it in turns to pick two cards. If they pick up a matching pair of *Source of the food* and *Product* cards (e.g. a cow and a bottle of milk) they are allowed to keep the pair. If they don't, they must replace the cards in exactly the same position that they found them and allow the next player to have their turn. The winner is the child with the most matching pairs at the end. Encourage children to remember which cards their friends picked up.

For more able groups: Extend this activity by asking children to guess where each product comes from. You may like to show the children an atlas to aid their discussion. See appendix for further information on the sources of food.

Bible reading

You will need a Bible or a Bible per child.

Main activity: Read Leviticus 23:39 and read 2 Corinthians 9: 11-12. Explain that the Israelites were asked by God to throw a party to say thank you for all the wonderful things he had given them. Paul was telling his friends in Corinth that one way to show how thankful they were to God was by sharing what they had.

For younger children: Read Leviticus 23:39. Explain that the Israelites were holding a celebration to say thank you to God for all the wonderful things he had given them.

For older children: Ask someone from the group to read out the Bible passages. What was God

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asking the Israelites to do in the first passage? Why do you think he was asking them to stop work and have a big party? What do you think this tells us about God? In the second passage what did Paul want his friends in Corinth to do? Why do you think he wanted them to share what they had with the people in Jerusalem?

Story from Uganda

You will need *The Praise the Lord and pass it on* PowerPoint or pictures (these can be found on the MRDF website or the CD-ROM)

Main activity: Just like the people of Israel, the farmers in Uganda are celebrating a wonderful harvest and just like Paul's friends in the church in Corinth they are passing on some of what they have been given to other people. (Show the *Praise the Lord and pass it on* PowerPoint or tell the story using the print-outs. These can be found on the MRDF website or the Fruitful Harvest CD-ROM.)

For younger children: You may wish to skip this activity or to cut out slides from the PowerPoint and focus on the idea that Robbison is very happy with his harvest and he is sharing some of his bananas with his friends.

Response

You will need string, clothes pegs, the *Thank you God...* and *I can share...* party decoration templates, pencils and colouring pens.

Main activity: Children to make special *Thank you God for...* party decorations. (You might like to have some string suspended across the room in advance and some clothes pegs on-hand to pin the triangular pieces of bunting to the string.) Print out the templates in the appendix and give each child a *Thank you God for...* flag and an *I can share...* flag. Ask children to write or draw things that they are thankful for on one flag and ways that they could share the good things that God has given them on the other (e.g. I could share my Lego with my brother.) Pin the flags up in your room as special party decorations.

For younger children: Just create a *Thank you God for...* flag. Talk about different things that the children might be thankful for (e.g. friends, family, food, toys) before children start to draw the pictures of the things they are thankful for.

For older children: After children have made their list of things they are thankful for, ask them to share one item on their list with the group – challenge them to think of ways that they could use what God has given them to help others. (E.g. If you're thankful for football, how could you use football to help other people?)

Building tabernacles

You will need old sheets, masking tape, chairs, tables, cardboard boxes.

Main activity: Read Leviticus 23: 42. Explain that part of the way that the Israelites showed how thankful they were to God was by building a shelter and living in it for seven days. It helped to remind them of how God had helped them in the past when they had been living in tents. Give children some masking tape, old sheets, chairs, tables, and cardboard boxes and ask them to make a

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shelter. When they have completed the shelter you could all sit in it (make sure it has one open side for child protection reasons) share some Ugandan fruit (like pineapple, mango and banana – check for allergies) and ask children what they are going to do this week to share some of the good things that God has given them. This activity is suitable for all ages and you may like to mix your groups up and encourage older children to help younger children to complete the shelter.

Appendix

Matching pairs answers:

Cow - milk (Most of our milk comes from the UK.)

Wheat - bread (Most of our wheat comes from the UK, the rest is grown in Germany and France.)

Chicken - egg (Most of our eggs come from the UK.)

Cocoa bean - chocolate (Most of our cocoa comes from Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Indonesia, Brazil, Nigeria, Cameroon and Malaysia.)

Banana tree - banana (Most of our bananas come from the Caribbean, from islands like Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent.)

Bees - honey (Honey can come from all over the world, some of our honey comes from the UK, but depending on the variety of the honey, it can also come from countries like Australia, Bulgaria, France, Hungary, Mexico, New Zealand and many more.)

Sugar cane - bowl of sugar (Half of our sugar comes from sugar beet, grown in the UK, the remainder comes from sugar cane, which is grown in countries such as Jamaica, Barbados, Mauritius and Fiji.)

Fish - fish finger (Most of the fish that we eat in fish fingers is caught in the Baltic sea.)

Potato - chips (Most of the potatoes that are used to make our oven chips are grown in the UK.)

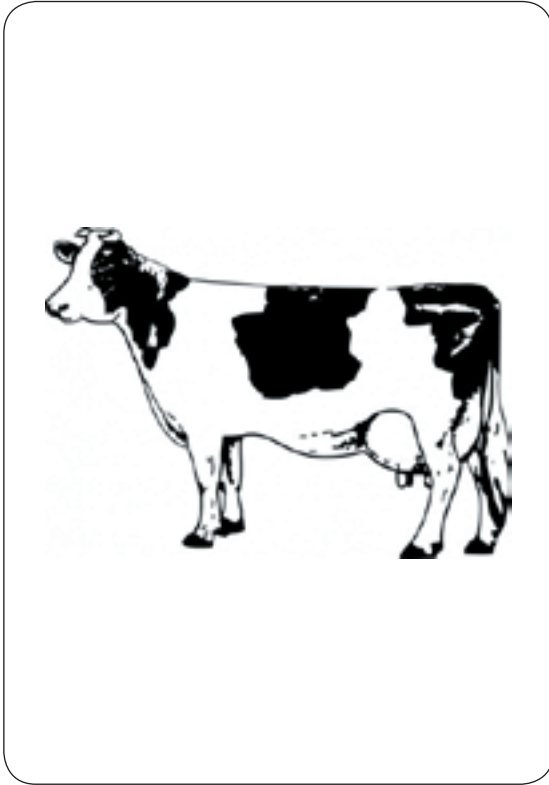
Orange tree - orange juice (The oranges that make orange juice come from a range of countries including the USA, Mexico, Brazil, India, China, Spain, Italy, Iran, Egypt and Pakistan.)

Rice plant - bowl of rice (Rice is grown in Thailand, Vietnam and the USA.)

Pea plant - peas (Peas are mainly grown in the UK.)

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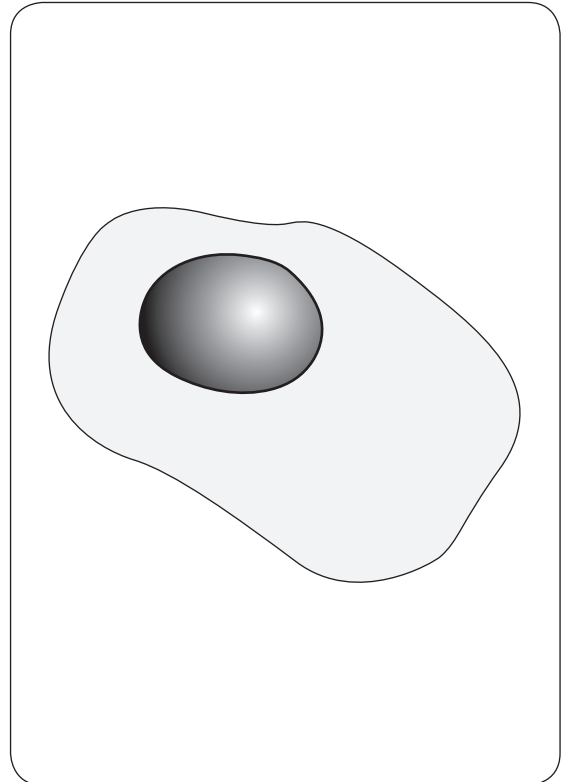
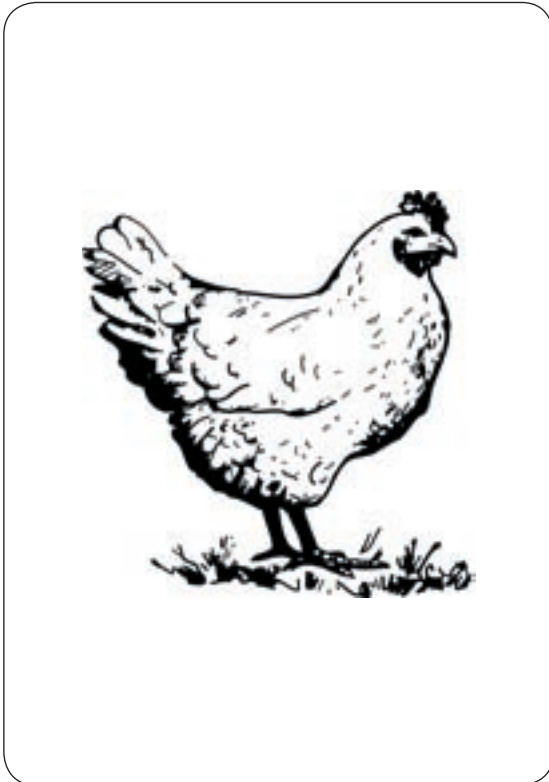
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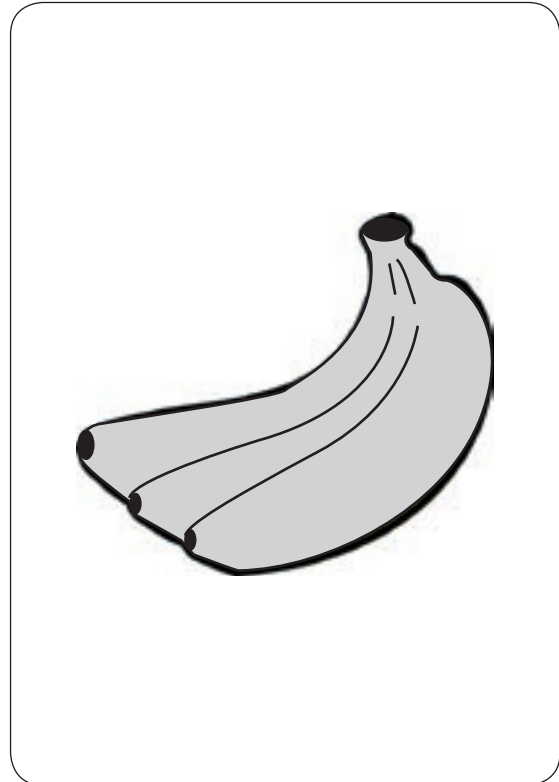


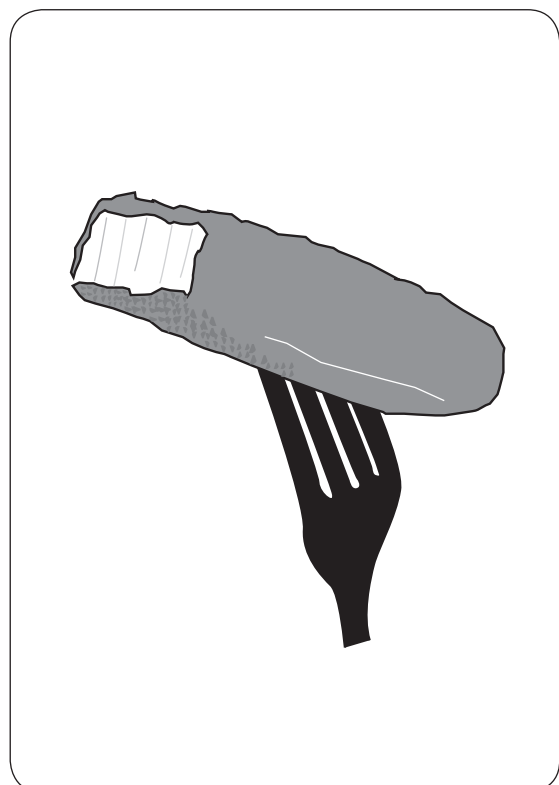
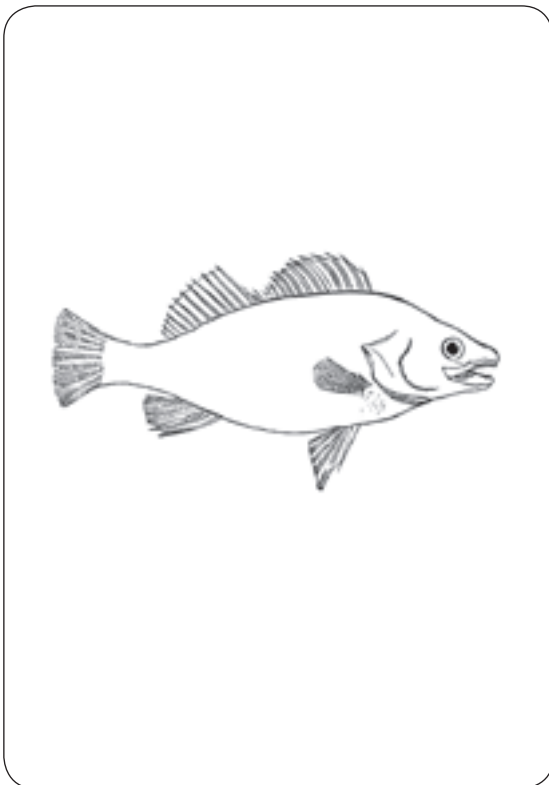
Product cards



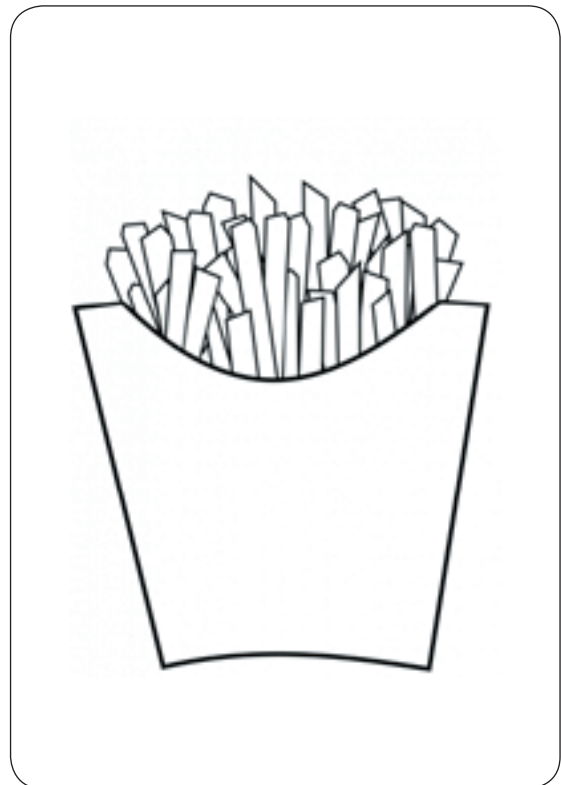
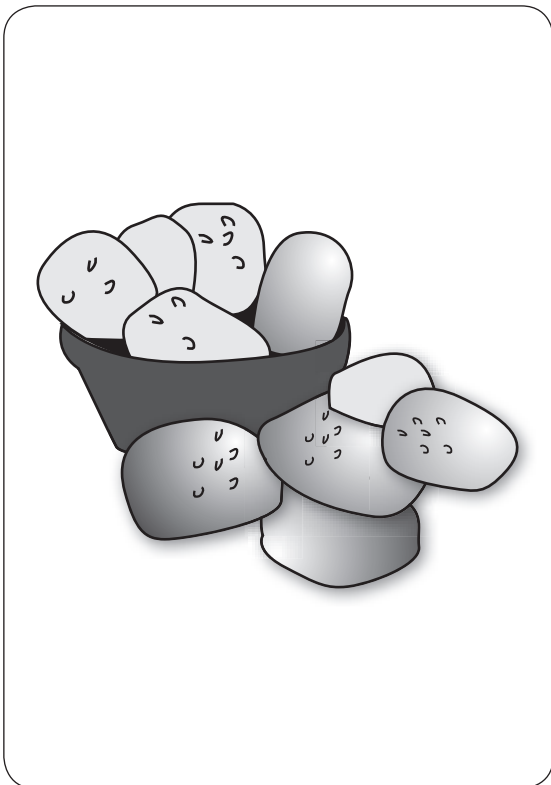
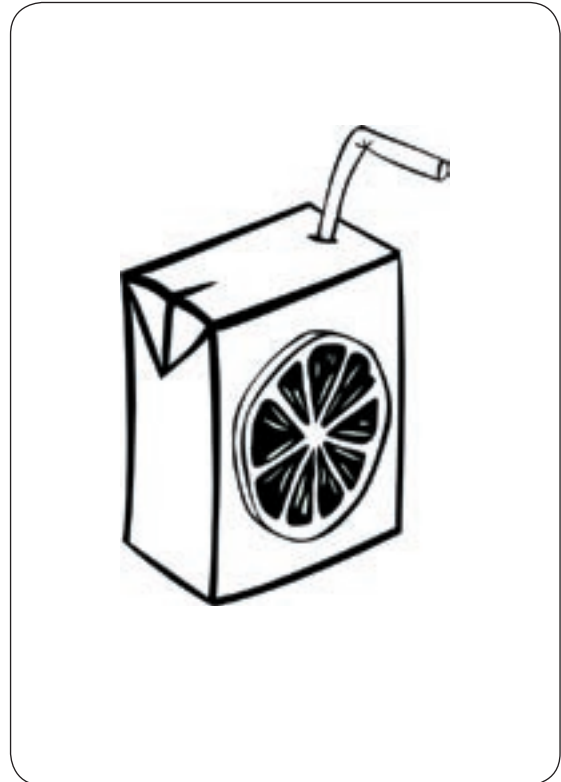
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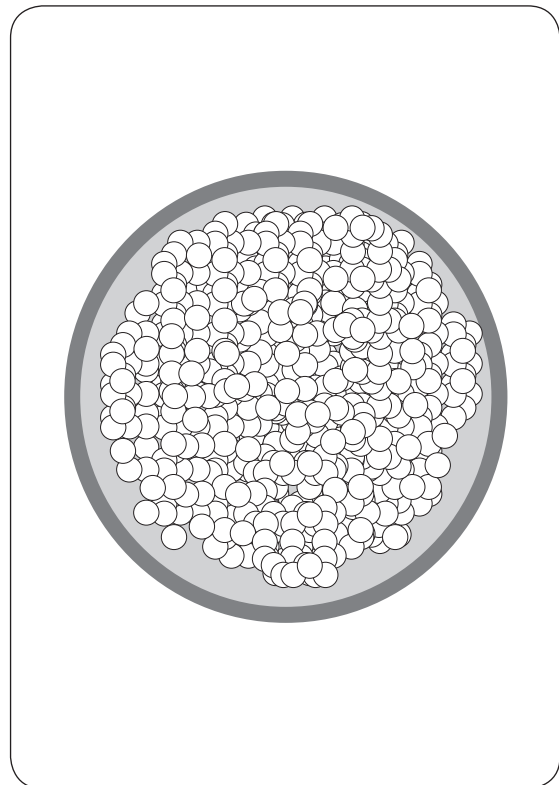
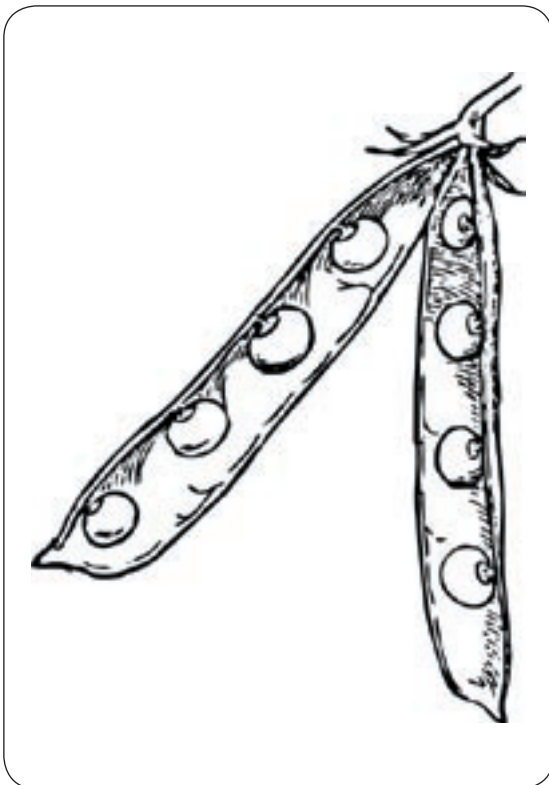
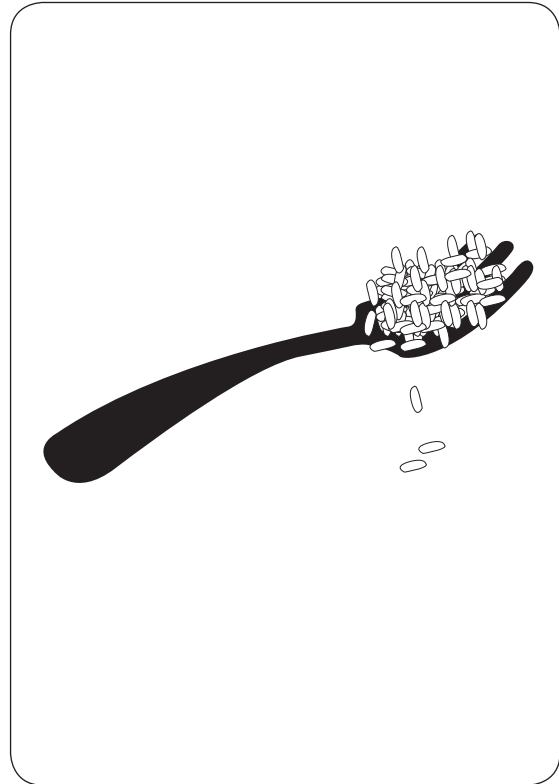




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Thank you God for...



I can share...