

ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN

DAY 1



During “On Earth As in Heaven,” ELCA World Hunger’s Vacation Bible School program, children are learning about faith, prayer and action. But the learning doesn’t have to stop at the closing session each day. By talking together at home, children can share their perspective and learn from other family members. We invite you to use this sheet at home to continue conversations about the day’s theme, activities and stories children experienced during the day.

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The theme for Day 1 was:
“Give us today our daily bread.”

They played games and took part in activities to help learn about hunger and the ways our church responds.

In the story for today, a community in Mexico received seeds, training and baby chicks to help them grow their farms and find new ways to make money to buy the things they needed. The children at VBS got to meet Ignacio, a farmer, and Imelda and Esmeralda, two sisters whose family received chickens. You can read the full story here: <https://bit.ly/2J9dSWb>.

The Global Goal today was:
Zero Hunger

Ending hunger means making sure everyone has enough to eat — for today and tomorrow. Sometimes, that means providing a meal so people can eat today. And sometimes that means helping a community get access to the things they need to eat tomorrow and for years after. For farming families, animals, tools, training, seeds and other things can go a long way to helping them end hunger and grow sustainable farms.

TALK TOGETHER / YOUNGER CHILDREN

Ask:

What games did you play today?

What crafts did you make?

What snacks did you try?

Share the picture below, of Imelda and Esmeralda from Mexico.

Ask:

Do you remember who these girls are?

How did the church help them?



TALK TOGETHER / OLDER CHILDREN

Ask:

What did you learn from the games you played?

What snacks did you try? What crafts did you make? What country did they represent?

What does "daily bread" mean? What, other than food, might be included when we ask God to "give us today our daily bread"?

What story did you hear today? How did the chickens and seeds help the community in Mexico?

What did you learn about Mexico today?

Why do you think it's important for the church to help end hunger?



SHARE:

What are some ways your family, household or church helps people in your community who are hungry?



PRAY:

At dinner or before bed, use this prayer as a family:

Dear God, thank you for the food we enjoy and all the other gifts you give us. Help us to remember our neighbors around the world and all they are doing to end hunger. Help us to remember, too, your plan for a world where everyone is fed. Thank you for the leaders and new friends we met today, and be with us this week as we learn more about you. Amen.



LEARN AND DO:

You and your child can learn more about hunger in your community by visiting Feeding America's "Map the Meal Gap" online. Visit <https://map.feedingamerica.org/> and enter your state or county to learn more.

If your church or community has a local food pantry, contact them to see what donations your family might collect together.

Visit ELCA.org/hunger to learn about ELCA World Hunger, the ELCA's response to hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world. Consider supporting the work of ELCA World Hunger through your offering on Sunday.

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DAY 2



During “On Earth As in Heaven,” ELCA World Hunger’s Vacation Bible School program, children are learning about faith, prayer and action. But the learning doesn’t have to stop at the closing session each day. By talking together at home, children can share their perspective and learn from other family members. We invite you to use this sheet at home to continue conversations about the day’s theme, the activities and the stories children experienced during the day.

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The theme for Day 2 was:
“Your will be done.”

They played games and took part in activities to help learn about God’s desire for good health for everyone.

In the story for today, we learned about a community in Zimbabwe that is working hard to end malaria, a dangerous but preventable disease transmitted by mosquitoes. You can read the full story here: <insert link>

The Global Goal today was:
Good Health

Part of God’s plan for the world is for everyone to be healthy and able to enjoy God’s creation. But part of God’s will, too, is that if our neighbor is sick or hurt, we will stay with them and help them. In today’s story, we will hear about how one church is helping people stay healthy — and helping people who are sick know that they are not alone. By walking with communities facing high risk of disease and illness, we can make sure that everyone has the chance to be healthy and to not be alone when they are sick.

TALK TOGETHER / YOUNGER CHILDREN

Share the picture below,
of a mosquito.

Ask:

What games did you play today?
What crafts did you make?
What snacks did you try?
What did you learn about
mosquitoes and health today?
What games did you play to learn
about malaria and health?
How does the church help
people who are sick?



TALK TOGETHER / OLDER CHILDREN

Ask:

What did you learn from
the games you played?
What snacks did you try? What
crafts did you make? What
country did they represent?
What do we pray for when we ask
God for God's will to be done?
What story did you hear
today? How did the church
help people in Zimbabwe?
What did you learn about
Zimbabwe today?
Why do you think it's important
for the church to help people who
are sick or might become sick?



SHARE:

How has the church helped you or your family when you or someone you loved was sick or injured?



PRAY:

At dinner or before bed, use this prayer as a family:

Dear God, thank you for creating our wonderful bodies and for all the people who help us be healthy. Thank you for Jesus, who healed and welcomed people who were sick or hurt. Help us to remember to love our neighbors and to care for people so everyone can live a healthy life. Thank you for our neighbors in Zimbabwe and around the world, who are working hard to end diseases such as malaria, and for the chance for our church to walk with them. Amen.



LEARN AND DO:

Talk with your church about ministries related to good health, from healing services to hospital visits. Consider volunteering as a family to write cards for members who are in care facilities or participating in a healing service for members of the community in need of prayer and support.

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DAY 3



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The theme for Day 3 was:
"Your kingdom come."

They played games and took part in activities to help learn about fairness and equality between people of different genders.

In the story for today, we learned about a project in Guatemala that is helping to ensure girls have the opportunity to get an education. You can watch a video here: <https://vimeo.com/329648156>.

The Global Goal today was:
Gender Equality

When we pray for God's "kingdom" to come, we are praying for God to lead us and our world to faith in God and love for each other. Sometimes, though, the ways we talk about God can make it seem that only certain people can be part of — or leaders in — God's world. But we know that God calls everyone to be part of — and leaders in — God's world, loving and serving each other with the gifts and talents God has given us. In this story, we will learn about one community that is helping its neighbors — and us — see that, in God's world, everyone matters and everyone should have a chance to learn, grow and lead.

TALK TOGETHER / YOUNGER CHILDREN

Ask:

What games did you play today?

What crafts did you make?

What snacks did you try?

Did you have the chance to be a leader in the games today?

What was that like?

Ask:

What did you learn about the girls in Guatemala today? How is the church helping them?

TALK TOGETHER / OLDER CHILDREN

Ask:

What did you learn from the games you played?

What snacks did you try? What crafts did you make? What country did they represent?

What do we pray for when we ask God's kingdom to come?

What story did you hear today? Why did the girls not get to school before the project started?

What did you learn about Guatemala today?

Why do you think it's important for the church to help make sure everyone is treated fairly, regardless of gender?



SHARE:

When have you experienced unfairness or inequality in your community? What important leaders have helped you see the different gifts every person brings?



LEARN AND DO:

There are some great books available about women who faced inequality as they grew up to be leaders in their communities — and helped change things for other women and girls. Reading these at bedtime can be a great way to see the hard work people are doing to create opportunities for women and girls.

Read Bible stories about women whom God called to be leaders. Some suggestions include:

- Deborah — Judges 4-5
- Esther — Book of Esther
- Ruth — Book of Ruth
- Shiphrah and Puah — Exodus 1:15-21
- Mary, mother of Jesus — Luke 1:39-55

Store scavenger hunt (for older children): Visit a local department store or toy store and look through the aisles of toys for items designated for girls and boys. Talk together about the differences between toys that are "for girls" and toys that are "for boys." What do the different toys reinforce about what it means to be of a certain gender?



PRAY:

At dinner or before bed, use this prayer as a family:

Dear God, thank you for our community and our neighbors. Thank you for blessing each of us with something to add to our world and your kingdom. Help us remember to treat all people fairly and to work together so that everyone can be a leader in our community. Amen.

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DAY 4



During “On Earth As in Heaven,” ELCA World Hunger’s Vacation Bible School program, children are learning about faith, prayer and action. But the learning doesn’t have to stop at the closing session each day. By talking together at home, children can share their perspective and learn from other family members. We invite you to use this sheet at home to continue conversations about the day’s theme, activities and stories children experienced during the day.

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The theme for Day 4 was:
“Hallowed be your name.”

They played games and took part in activities to help learn about the importance of education.

In the story for today, we learned about two ministries in the United States. In Ohio, DLM Food and Resources helps provide food to children whose families may be experiencing hunger or homelessness. In Texas, a passionate young leader is helping grow her congregation’s food pantry with support from the ELCA. You can read the full story here: <https://bit.ly/2MG7x6J>.

The Global Goal today was:
Quality Education

When we pray “hallowed be your name,” we pray that God’s name will be holy in our lives — that we will honor God with lives of faith and service. Keeping God’s name “hallowed” in our lives is about more than words. It means being the people God is calling us to be. In the storyteller station today, we will hear two stories about congregations helping young people in their community get the education they need so that they will be able to be the leaders God is calling them to be.

TALK TOGETHER / YOUNGER CHILDREN

Ask:

What games did you play today?

What crafts did you make? What snacks did you try?

What does "hallowed" mean? (In VBS today, children learned that "hallowed" means holy and set apart by God.)

What did you learn about education today?

TALK TOGETHER / OLDER CHILDREN

Ask:

What did you learn from the games you played?

What snacks did you try? What crafts did you make? What country did they represent?

What does it mean when we pray for God's name to be "hallowed"?

What stories did you hear today?

How can education help people become leaders in their communities?

What did you learn about Ohio or Texas today?

Why do you think it's important for the church to help make sure everyone can get an education?



SHARE:

Who have been the teachers (in school or outside of school) who have helped you become the person you are today?



PRAY:

At dinner or before bed, use this prayer as a family:

Dear God, thank you for the gift of education and for helping us learn more about your world. Thank you for the people we learn from. Help us to remember to love and care for all our neighbors — at school, at church and in our community. Help us to work together to make sure everyone can get an education and become leaders. Amen.



LEARN AND DO:

Many food pantries and other ministries provide school supplies to families in need in the community. Visit or call a local pantry to see if there are opportunities to collect school supplies or books for neighbors in your community.

Backpack programs in many communities provide food to students in food-insecure households during the school year. ELCA World Hunger's Backpack Buddies Guide can help you learn more. Consider volunteering with a backpack ministry in your community — or working with your congregation and local school to start your own! Download the guide at ELCA.org/hunger/resources/#HungerEd.

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DAY 5



During "On Earth As in Heaven," ELCA World Hunger's Vacation Bible School program, children are learning about faith, prayer and action. But the learning doesn't have to stop at the closing session each day. By talking together at home, children can share their perspective and learn from other family members. We invite you to use this sheet at home to continue conversations about the day's theme, activities and stories children experienced during the day.

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The theme for Day 5 was:

"The kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours. Amen."

They played games and took part in activities to help learn about the peace that God promises for our world and how neighbors around the world are helping build peace.

In the story for today, we met Halima, a young woman from Kenya who is learning to be a peace-builder in her community.

The Global Goal today was: Peace and Justice

Sometimes, it can be hard to remember that the world we live in is God's world and that God wants us to share it with each other. When we act as if the world is our own, or when we think that we should be in control, we can act in ways that are hurtful toward other people. When we pray this part of the Lord's Prayer, though, we ask God to help us remember that God loves all our neighbors and that we are called to care for each other, share with each other and celebrate the ways God has made us different from each other.

TALK TOGETHER / YOUNGER CHILDREN

Show the picture of people dancing below.

Ask:

What games did you play today?

What crafts did you make?

What snacks did you try?

What does "peace" mean?

Why are people dancing in the picture?

TALK TOGETHER / OLDER CHILDREN

Ask:

What did you learn from the games you played?

What snacks did you try? What crafts did you make? What country did they represent?

What did you learn from the story today?

Why is peace important to God?

How can the church help people build peace around the world?



SHARE:

When was a time when you helped resolve a conflict between yourself and your neighbor?



PRAY:

At dinner or before bed, use this prayer as a family:

Dear God, thank you for the amazing people and things in our world and for all the differences between us and our neighbors. Help us to remember to love and care for our neighbors and help us to make peace when we disagree. Be with us and our neighbors when we are unsafe. Help us to be protected and to protect others. Help us to do what we can to make the world a safe and just place for everyone. Amen.



LEARN AND DO:

Read together "The Coconut Monk" by Thich Nhat Hahn. This book, based on a true story, tells the story of a monk in Vietnam who attempts to share his message of peace with his nation. Available on Amazon.

Peace means more than the absence of conflict; it involves respecting and appreciating the many gifts of each of our neighbors. With your child, choose another religion to learn more about. Visit a local library to find children's books on a religion different from your own or, if possible in your community, reach out to the leader of a local house of worship about attending a service or event. Some suggestions for books can be found at <https://kidworldcitizen.org/books-world-religions-for-kids/>.

Make a gift! Peace happens in big ways and small ways. Actions that might seem simple are often more meaningful than we know when it comes to building peace. Consider making crafts or other gifts that you and your child can share with neighbors and friends to help them know you care about and value them.