



**GENERATION
ZERO-HUNGER**

Together, we can be the generation that ends hunger.



*Interactive
Journey*



50
years



ELCA
World Hunger



Group leaders,

Today you and your group will be acting out the experiences of a family in Nepal as they struggle to find a sustainable livelihood. This is similar to the journey that attendees experienced at the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering, in ELCA World Hunger's interactive space. Participants will act out characters who mirror real-life people participating in ELCA World Hunger partnerships.

In this guide you will find a list of character roles, materials you should expect to use and setup instructions for the experience. Simply follow the prompts to guide your participants through the role-playing. You will play the landlord and act as narrator. Some participants might be frustrated with the gameplay. This is OK! They are experiencing structural, social inequities. Feel free to lean into these emotions as you play your role. At the end, use the provided debriefing prompts to create some space for reflecting on and processing the experience.

You Will Need:

- One group leader.
- Four to 10 participants.
- Paper and colored pencils.
- Four to 10 family-member tokens. These can be dollar-store toys or any other tokens that symbolize the different people.
- One transparent jar full of candy fish (or a similar small, countable object).
- Modeling clay.
- Four tables in different areas of the room.

Roles

- **The family members,** played by four to 10 people. You can adjust these numbers based on the size of your group. (Examples: child, parent, stepparent, grandparent.) Get creative!
- **The landlord/narrator,** played by the group leader.

STATION 1

Setup:

1. Place a piece of paper on each table, labeling them "1" through "4."
2. Place the family-member tokens on table 1.
3. Place the jar of candy fish on table 2.
4. Place the opened modeling clay on table 3.

The group leader introduces the premise:

Narrator: Your large family needs to move because a recent flood destroyed your home in Nepal's rural Nawalparasi West district. Your family's savings have been lost. You are responsible for sheltering and feeding your family. Family members, please name your character and try to imagine stepping into their shoes. (Examples: "Aunt Urmila" or "Grandpa Joe" or "Little Brother Carlos.")

Offer time for participants to pick out their family-member token and get into character.

Narrator: Now, just in time, you have found a place to live! It is a small farm on a large piece of land, owned by a greedy, sharecropping landlord (me). Who knows what a sharecropper is?

Discuss sharecropping, using the ELCA World Hunger Connection information at the end of this guide.

Narrator: Since your family is desperate and I hold all the power, I will decide what percentage of your crops to take from you each year. I am greedy and unpredictable, so your odds of keeping most of your harvest are as fickle as this game of chance.

Move to Station 2

STATION 2

Activity



Each family member tries to guess how many candy fish (or other items) are in the jar. They can't touch the jar, but they can work together for a better guess. They can offer only one official guess, and its degree of accuracy will determine how much of their crop gets taken away. We recommend placing 100 to 200 fish in the jar but not a round number. Depending on age, you can make this easier or harder by making the family members calculate the amount of harvest they get to keep. You can adjust these numbers as your supplies permit.

Guess is within 10 fish of the actual total:
THE LANDLORD GETS
10%
of their harvest.

Guess is within 25 fish of the actual total:
THE LANDLORD GETS
25%
of their harvest.

Guess is more than 25 fish from the actual total:
THE LANDLORD GETS
50%
of their harvest.

Once you receive their guesses and calculate how much of their harvest gets taken away annually, move on to describing what happens next:

You are the lucky ones in your community.

People come to you for help with food because you have a larger harvest than most. The need in your community is great, and you decide that you will seek out new opportunities for your family and loved ones.

Your family is fortunate that your crop-sharing percentage is lower than others.

You are able to help out a few of your neighbors, but the community need is great and you are still barely getting by.

Each year, your family is keeping barely enough food to survive.

You need to do something drastic.

Narrator: After hearing about a free program in the big city that teaches people how to raise animals, you talk about it as a family and decide to attend. From this program you learn about and receive the resources you need to sustain your family more easily. You even get some goats so you can make your own cheese and milk!

Move to Station 3



STATION 3

Activity



Within the time limit determined by your crop-sharing situation, each family must create as many goats as possible from modeling clay.

10%

of their
harvest
taken:



25%

of their
harvest
taken:



50%

of their
harvest
taken:



The caveat is that you, the sharecropping landlord, get to determine what is an "acceptable" goat. For example, if they are creating simple blobs of clay, you may say, "I want to see a better tail," before accepting it.

Narrator: You bring back these goats to your family and teach them what you have learned about rearing animals, maintaining good health and growing a business. In addition to your crops, you now have a second source of income! You and your family can breathe a little easier. Now the choice is up to you. Is this a gift to share with your community or to keep within your own family?

OPTION 1 SHARE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY.

If you invest in your community through education about local cultivation and regenerative agriculture, your neighbors will prosper and your community will gain independence from exploitative agricultural practices. You may not make as much money.



OPTION 2 INVEST IN YOUR BUSINESS ALONE.

If you invest in your business alone, maintaining your hold on knowledge and resources, your family will be able to reap the benefits of sharecropping whereas your neighbors will not. The result will be greater wealth through raising more livestock.



STATION 4

DEBRIEF

IF YOU CHOSE OPTION 1

Narrator: Many in your community begin raising goats, and others continue working with a farming group to learn about planting native plants to feed people and livestock. You are no longer dependent upon carbon-producing feed from foreign nations. Three years on, another flood arrives. Your village is completely destroyed. But your community knows how to respond — you replant and regrow your crops and flocks. This time you pursue education making your region more resilient to climate disaster.



IF YOU CHOSE OPTION 2



Narrator: Your business demands a large amount of industrially produced feed. Though you have made a large amount of money and gained independence on your own land, your workers — necessary for rearing the large number of goats — are transitory. Three years on, another large flood arrives. Your village is completely destroyed, and your goat herds are gone. Your workers, who lack in the face of increasing climate-related disasters, move on to a different sharecropping enterprise outside the flood zone.

Prompts for Reflection

We hope that this experience was meaningful for you and that you had the chance to explore the intersecting root causes of hunger. We also hope you were able to see how your church, through ELCA World Hunger and its partners, is actively addressing hunger at these roots and inviting you into this ministry.

Now that you've had this learning experience — and you know how to take action as part of Generation Zero-Hunger — we invite you to share the story of your ELCA World Hunger learning experience with your congregation and community.

The prompts below are designed to help you tell your story, which you can do during worship or in fellowship or education time. As you write your story, answer the prompts as if you were speaking to members of your faith community:

- **What did your character experience? What choices did they make?**
- **What injustices did you see facing people who were experiencing poverty, and where did you see ELCA World Hunger active in these moments?**
- **What difference did your learning experience make for you?**

ELCA WORLD HUNGER CONNECTION

Nawalparasi West, Nepal

Sharecropping is a medieval practice arising within communities that have little access to roads, schools or health care. Wealthy landowners take advantage of this reality and lease land to people — sharecroppers — who cannot afford to buy it.

The United Mission to Nepal, an ELCA World Hunger partner, makes space for sharecroppers to gain income by developing new agricultural and business skills for themselves. These farmers gain the power and confidence that comes with owning their own business and building community with fellow project members.

One of these entrepreneurs, Urmila Koiri of the Nepalese district Nawalparasi West, has been taking courses on goat-rearing, shed construction and animal health. With this knowledge and support she has grown her goat herd and is now making a good income from goat-rearing.





The world produces more than enough food to feed every person, yet the number of people who are hungry has grown since 2019. More than 2 billion people around the world aren't sure where their next meal will come from, and for as many as 828 million people, that next meal won't come at all.

Together, we can be the generation that ends hunger. There is another story unfolding around us: the story of God at work through you in ELCA World Hunger around the world. It is a story that has been unfolding for the last 50 years through our church as we worked together to create sustainable, lasting change. It is a story of new homes being built, of new fields being planted with crops. It is a story of wells bubbling with clean water and of small businesses bursting with opportunity. It is a story of caring for the environment and of healthy communities thriving.

For 50 years we have joined together as Lutherans to address the root causes of hunger and poverty around the world through ELCA World Hunger. Part of our church's long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God's promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. In 2024 we are commemorating the 50th anniversary of this ministry. We have made great strides, but once again we face a startling increase in global hunger. As we reflect on our last 50 years of ministry together, we know God calls us to respond to the needs of the world now more than ever.

**Donate, order or download resources
and learn more at [ELCA.org/WH50](https://elca.org/WH50).**



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