



It's Not Fair – Learn to Share!

A Harvest Service Suggestion from
Capt Gordon Banks (CA)

This is an activity and is visual. Remember: when using anything visual to explain adequately if you have visually impaired people in the congregation.

For this activity you need eight people*, eight sheets of A4 card (you might manage with paper, and could make them larger), and loaf of medium sliced bread. If possible, arrange for the cards to be hung around the neck of each of your volunteers.

On one side of each of the cards affix one of the illustrations shown overleaf, which show what is needed to produce a loaf of bread: sun, rain, soil, seed, tending, reaping, baking, the finished loaf. On the reverse side of each card write one of the regions of the world – people in each of these areas are grateful for the production of bread. The regions are: USA, West Europe, Australia, East Europe, Latin America, Near East, Asia, and Africa.

Start the talk by talking about a loaf of bread. Ask how many people in the congregation have bought at least one in the past week. Ask if they have ever realised all the work that goes into producing one loaf of bread.

One by one, hang the illustrations around each of the volunteers in order, saying something about each illustration (e.g. sun needed to produce energy for the corn to grow and ripen; rain needed to enable the plant to draw up all the chemicals and nutrients it needs, etc)

Then ask the volunteers to turn the card over to reveal the regions. You could ask if anyone has visited these places. You could also google a region or a country in that region to find out how many hungry mouths there are.

Open the wrapped sliced bread and distribute this evenly between your volunteers (now representing different parts of the world).

Explain that some regions in the world have more money and power and can become greedy. Teach the congregation to chant, "It's not fair – learn to share!" Get them to repeat the chant a few times.

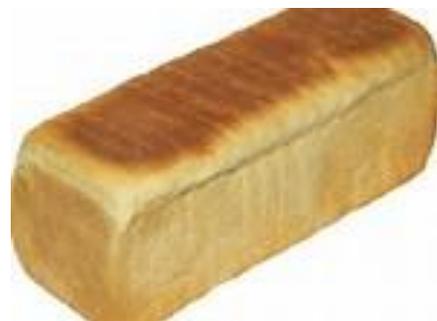
If the volunteers can be trusted to be sensible encourage USA to take some of the bread from the poorer regions. West Europe does the same. (If your volunteers are children – especially if mischievous – you might need to do this yourself). The slices of bread are misappropriated until they have most of the bread and poorer regions are left with hardly anything – perhaps only half a slice! Each time bread is taken from the poorer regions the congregations should chant.

Explain that this is an illustration regarding sharing the world's finite resources. Invite the people to suggest what could be done

Finish by encouraging USA and Europe to redistribute what they have, while people chant, "We can share – that's more fair".

ILLUSTRATIONS:

Note: You can source your own illustrations from the internet if you do not want to cut and paste the ones below. They can be resized. For example, google “Harvest images”, “Reaping images”, etc. Try clicking the on the images below to go to their source.



For further information on this activity contact Capt. Gordon Banks.
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