



The following outline is suitable for an all age Harvest service, or any other service, throughout the year. Please adapt these suggestions to suit the needs of your church and the time of year.

All the resources mentioned are available from rippleeffect.org/harvest

Left: Therese and Deogratias, Ripple Effect farmers, Rwanda

Introduction

Welcome everyone to the service. Explain that this Harvest Festival, we are coming together to celebrate; to thank God for the abundance we have been given and to share with our global neighbours. Explain that today we are supporting the work of Ripple Effect.

About Ripple Effect

Today, families in rural Africa still face poverty that is extreme, cruel, and worst of all, unnecessary. The knowledge and skills needed for farmers to fight hunger and earn a living are often lost. And now the climate emergency is threatening to push millions of people back into extreme poverty as they are affected by catastrophic floods and droughts.

Ripple Effect is creating a wave of change in rural Africa. It starts when the team brings farmers together with community trainers and experienced peer farmers to share ideas and learn new skills. The focus is on practical approaches that help them grow more and sell more, so they can invest in their farms and families' futures.

The ripple effect grows because for every family the team works with, more families benefit too. Farmers share what they learn with their neighbours and communities. Then those farmers do the same. Soon thousands, then hundreds of thousands, experience the benefits, in communities where everyone is included, and everyone thrives. It's efficient, effective and builds a momentum that spreads far beyond our programmes.

This Harvest Festival, we will find out how your church can support farmers in rural Africa to restore their land for a future free from hunger.

Song: Harvest Samba

Reading, Luke 10 vs 25-37

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself."



£250 could train smallholder farmers in climate-smart methods to improve soil quality and protect their land from climate shocks such as droughts and floods.

Interactive talk

Download Jeanne and Therese's stories, your Harvest video, a fun quiz and presentation:

rippleeffect.org/harvest-resources

Fun quiz - all age activity

Download the fun quiz and challenge your congregation to see how much they know about the fruit farmers grow in rural Africa!

You can divide the church into two teams. Make sure that you involve the children as much as possible (reading the questions, being a team leader or keeping the score are all possibilities).

After the quiz you can show the video to introduce Jeanne and how can help communities to fight hunger and the climate crisis.

If you are unable to show the video, you can use the PowerPoint presentation.

Meet Jeanne

Explain that as you celebrate this year's Harvest Festival and all that God has provided, it's good to take time to think about our global neighbours.

Ripple Effect's Harvest appeal this year focuses on supporting families with climate-resilient fruit and vegetable seeds and farming techniques, for mothers like Jeanne, to restore their land for a future free from hunger.

Points to consider in your talk

What does the climate crisis mean to us where we live? Are we noticing changes? What are we already doing about it (it is important to encourage your congregation by highlighting what they are already doing!) What else can we pledge to do as individuals or as a church?

As we have seen in the video (or PowerPoint), learning new climate-smart technologies can make a great difference to farmers like Jeanne.

This Harvest Festival, we can show our love to our global neighbours by supporting Ripple Effect so that mothers like Jeanne can restore their land for a future free from hunger.

£100 could provide farmers with drought-resistant seeds, helping them grow food year-round.



Jeanne, Ripple Effect farmer, Rwanda, with her son

Song:

Who put the colours in the rainbow?



£500 could support farmers to build resilient, eco-friendly income streams and learn money management.

Prepare a large table or prayer station with:

- A map of Rwanda and Burundi (or a globe)
- A basket of soil (to touch and remind us of the land)
- Small paper leaves or fruit shapes (cut from recycled card or green paper)
- Pens
- A large “Tree of Hope” display (can be a drawn tree on a board or a real branch in a pot where people can hang their leaves)
- A donation box or Ripple Effect poster

Introduction

At Harvest time, as we give thanks for the food on our tables and the abundance God has given us, we also remember our brothers and sisters across the world who do not have enough to eat. Let's pray for farmers like Jeanne and Therese in Rwanda, and ask God how we can be part of a ripple of change across rural Africa.

Reflection (Invite people to do the following)

- Take a moment to feel the soil in the basket.
- Think about Jeanne and Therese, and other mothers farming dry, depleted land.
- On a paper leaf/fruit, write one of the following:
 - A prayer (e.g., “Lord, bless Jeanne’s crops.”)
 - A hope for the earth for future generations.
 - A commitment (e.g., “I will waste less food.” or “We will support the Restore project.”)

Response

- Place your leaf on the “Tree of Hope” as a sign of prayer, solidarity, and growth.
- If moved, place a donation in the collection box or take home Ripple Effect materials.

Closing Prayer

Creator God, we thank you for the soil beneath our feet, the sun that gives life, and the food on our tables. We remember our sisters and brothers like Jeanne, who face hunger and hardship each day. Bless the work of their hands, restore their land, and strengthen their hope.

Show us how we can be part of the ripple of change across rural Africa. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Closing thoughts



Recap on what's been spoken about throughout the service:

- Thanking God for the good gifts we have been given.
- Thanking God for fruit!
- Thinking about mothers like Jeanne and Therese in Rwanda.
- By supporting the work of Ripple Effect this Harvest we will be able to help mothers like Jeanne to restore their land for a future free from hunger.

Left: Therese showing the abundance of her crops

Song:

We plough the fields and scatter



Final blessing

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26



Sign up for Ripple Effect's monthly email to receive stories from our farming families, fundraising opportunities for your church, prayer updates and event invitations. **Sign up today: rippleeffect.org/making-ripples**

