

All Age Harvest Service: Every meal tells a story

**RIPPLE
EFFECT**

It starts on an African farm



The following outline is suitable for an all-age Harvest service. Please adapt these suggestions to suit the needs of your church. All the resources mentioned are available from rippleeffect.org/harvest-resources.

Left: Priscillah, Ripple Effect farmer, Kenya

Opening activity as people arrive: “Build a Rainbow Plate” (This links to the appeal price points.)

You will need:

- Paper plates
- Pictures/drawings of colourful fruits and vegetables
- Glue sticks

Children can create a “rainbow plate” filled with different foods. Display the plates around church or near the offering table.

Welcome and Introduction

Today we celebrate Harvest – a time to thank God for food, for creation, and for all those who grow and prepare what we eat.

But Harvest is also a reminder that food is not something we can take for granted. Around the world, many families face uncertainty because of changing weather and difficult growing conditions.

This year, through the Ripple Effect Harvest Appeal, we’re hearing the story of Priscillah and her family in Kenya – a story that began with struggle, but is now a story of growth, resilience, and hope. Thank you to everyone who has created a ‘rainbow plate’. It reminds us that eating a variety of foods is good for our health, and it also helps us think about the importance of crop diversity to ensure successful farming and thriving, resilient communities.

And as we think about seeds in the soil, we’re reminded that God often grows hope from small beginnings – sometimes in ways we don’t expect.

About Ripple Effect

Ripple Effect works alongside farming families in rural Africa to grow nutritious food, build resilience, and improve livelihoods. Farmers share skills with others, creating a ripple effect of lasting change. We’ll find out more about Ripple Effect during this service.

£100 could provide banana seedlings helping to improve harvests and strengthen food security through training and ongoing support.



All Age Harvest Service:

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Opening prayer:

Loving God, thank you for the earth that sustains us, the food we enjoy and for all who work to grow and prepare it. Help us to care for your creation and to share generously with others. Grow in us hearts of compassion, hope and thankfulness. Amen.

Suggested Songs:

- For the Beauty of the Earth
- Harvest Samba
- Give Thanks

Banana quiz: See PowerPoint

Bible 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.'

Reflection

Harvest is a time to remember where our food comes from - the unpredictability of its supply, and yet God's faithful provision. It is also a moment to reflect on the wider environmental impact of how food is grown, not only here but across the world.

This is a reminder both of gratitude and responsibility: of God's provision through creation, and of our shared responsibility to care for the environment on which we all depend. Farming today is shaped by a changing climate, and what happens in one part of the world affects us all. We are all living on one planet, and the way food is produced - here and overseas - is deeply connected.

As Christians, we are called to care for creation and to work for just and fair systems. That includes standing alongside organisations like Ripple Effect, who help farmers grow food sustainably, strengthen their soils, use water wisely, and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Through this work, communities are able to build resilience, dignity, and hope for the future.

In Luke 10:27, Jesus responds to the question "what must I do to inherit eternal life" by looking at what it means to love God and to love our neighbour. That question of "what must I do" is not only about faith in a spiritual sense, but also about how we live faithfully in the world we are part of – how we treat others, and how we care for the world we share. **Let's watch the Ripple Effect Harvest video to find out how we can love our neighbour.**

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Response to the video

Connect directly to appeal:

- £100 banana seedlings
- £250 rainbow plate
- £500 climate-resilient seeds

Closing challenge

This Harvest we can be part of a story of growth and resilience, not hunger. Through Ripple Effect, churches like ours can help provide seedlings, sustainable farming training and climate-resilient crops for rural farming communities in East Africa. As we give today, we remember that every gift can help grow hope.

Interactive prayers (instructions provided at rippleeffect.org/harvest-resources)

Create a large paper banana prayer tree.

Ask people to write prayers or hopes on paper bananas and add them to the tree

Interactive response:

Leader: God of growth and hope

All: Help us grow resilience and compassion.

Sending Out

May God, who gives seed to sow and bread to eat, fill us with gratitude, generosity and hope. And may we go from this place ready to help grow resilience, dignity and abundant life for others. Amen.



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**