

Ripple Effect Script for Lent 26 Presentation

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As Christians, we are called to reflect on faith, perseverance, and care for creation. In this presentation, you'll hear about Thomas and Selena and how practical training, hard work, and trust in God have helped one family grow food, improve nutrition, and become more resilient in the face of drought and climate change. It is a reminder that even small actions, nurtured with patience and hope, can bring new life.

But first of all, let's find out more about the work of Ripple Effect.

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Ripple Effect has established country programmes in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Zambia.

80% of Ripple Effect staff are from these countries – working with and for the communities they live alongside.

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We have over three decades of experience supporting families in rural Africa to learn more, grow more and sell more. Our projects are typically three years long. Once families have completed their Ripple Effect training, they then share what they know and have with their communities, creating a ripple effect across rural Africa.

There are three core strands to our work (detailed in the following slides)

- Farming sustainably
- Gender and social inclusion
- Business skills

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Farming sustainably

Ripple Effect trains families in using up to date and traditional approaches to farming. Families learn to build productive farms and to adapt to the effects of **the climate crisis**. And ultimately their farms will have a climate-positive impact!

Community trainers and peer farmers share their knowledge with more farmers and communities, so there is a ripple effect of learning.

Ripple Effect helps farmers think about the resources available to them within their community. We then teach the organic agricultural principles and skills they need to integrate these into a sustainable, biodiverse farm – without expensive artificial fertilisers or GM seeds.

Techniques that will be familiar to you, such as water harvesting, composting, use of manure, vegetable growing, tree planting and animal husbandry are easily adaptable to each farmer's own land and needs.

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Gender and social inclusion:

Ripple Effect works with the most marginalised of communities: widows, orphans, those with disabilities or living with HIV/AIDs. Across all the strands of our work we leave no one behind.

We facilitate women and men sharing decisions and responsibilities equally, extending the impact of our work across generations, and ensuring that people with different needs and abilities have the opportunity to learn more, grow more and sell more.

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Business skills

Once families are eating well and earning enough to send their children to school, we encourage them to think bigger, beyond just food security.

As part of their training, they learn money management and enterprise skills so they can access savings and credit services.

They also investigate how best to add value to their produce – for example processing it into another product; and how to store it – enabling it to be sold out of season.

Farmers become resilient entrepreneurs, capable of making choices and in charge of their own futures.

In this photo Agripine is holding the soap that she has been making and selling for profit.

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Meet Thomas and Selena and their family

When we Thomas and Selena a few months ago, this is what they told us:

We have started a vegetable garden and now receive good weekly profits. Through the training provided by Ripple Effect, we have learned new gardening techniques that not only improve our harvests but also make us more resilient to drought and climate challenges. Thanks to this, we are already enjoying a balanced and nutritious diet.

Even with the training, growing vegetables is not always easy. Dry weather and water scarcity have been major obstacles. But I [Thomas] continue to plant new vegetables after each harvest, and I mulch my raised beds. The mulch retains moisture and afterwards it rots and becomes compost! (which in turns improves the soil).

He told us that Life was harder when I was a child. We cut trees and burned charcoal, which affected the environment, and we often only ate one meal a day.

But today, with better knowledge, tools, and training, Thomas and his family able to grow more food and improve their lives.

I am most proud of my vegetable gardens, which have provided a good income in a short time.

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Buretti (in the photo), Thomas and Selena's daughter, also works hard on the land. They all work together!

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“My family nutrition has changed. There didn't used to be enough food for us all. We'd make ugali in the evenings and eat the leftovers for breakfast. From the production of fruit, including bananas, and vegetables we've been able to earn enough to buy other food types.

We eat three meals a day now and they are very nutritious.” Selena.

If you've been inspired by the work of Ripple Effect and Selena and Thomas's story, please consider supporting our work today.

With your support, Ripple Effect can continue working alongside communities in rural Africa — helping families like theirs grow food, build resilience to the climate crisis, and secure their futures.

Thank you

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£100 could provide vital training before the next planting season – improving soil quality and increasing crop yields.

£250 could help farmers to grow enough food all year round, even as the climate changes.

£400 could provide training in practical technologies , like keyhole garden - starting now!

Slide 11 - thank you!

