

# HARVEST

## THEMED PROGRAMME



### AIM

Harvest is when we celebrate all the food that is grown on the land and give thanks to God for providing for us.

This theme will get children finding out more about harvest through games/crafts and activities.

Harvest Festival usually takes place towards the end of September each year.

### ACTIVITIES

-  Collect for a Foodbank
-  Food Hunt Game
-  Field of Scarecrows
-  Scarecrow Biscuits
-  Scarecrow Dressing Up Relay
-  Harvest Words

# HARVEST

## » INTRODUCTION

Harvest Festival is an annual celebration which happens at the time of the main harvest of the year, to celebrate and thank God for the crops which have been grown. In our country this happens towards the end of September.

Harvest is traditionally celebrated in Churches and schools across the country, usually with the singing of hymns, prayers, giving thanks and donating food to those less fortunate.

## ? DID YOU KNOW?

- The word 'Harvest' comes from the old English word 'Haerfest', which means autumn.
- Harvest falls on the Sunday nearest to the Harvest moon. This is the full moon that occurs closest to the autumn equinox.
- There are over 280,000 farms in the UK.
- Around 70% of land in the UK is used for agricultural purposes.
- The main crops grown in the UK are wheat, barley, oat, potatoes and vegetables.



GET INVOLVED



10 MINUTES



PREPARATION NEEDED

## GET INVOLVED: COLLECT FOR A FOODBANK

The week before, ask the group to come along with item(s) of food which can be donated to your local foodbank. This could be tins of food, pasta, rice, cereal, biscuits etc. Take some time in your Harvest evening to explain where the food will be donated to, who it may help and why it is good to care for those around you.

In preparation, contact your local foodbank to find out if there is anything particular that they are looking for at the moment. Also check on practical arrangements for getting the food to them.



GET ACTIVE



15 MINUTES



PREPARATION NEEDED

## GET ACTIVE: FOOD HUNT GAME

You will need around 20 images of food items. These could be printed images, cut outs from magazines or even real food items.

To play the game, scatter your pictures/items on the floor around the room. Make sure you can't see what they are by turning them upside down (pictures) or hiding them under cones (real food items).

**Split your group into small teams.** For each round a team will need to nominate one person who will play. The leader will call out a food item and one player from each team will hunt around the room to find the correct item and score a point for their team.

Continue playing until all the items are found. The team with the highest points are the winners.



GET ACTIVE



10 MINUTES



READY TO GO

## GET ACTIVE: FIELD OF SCARECROWS

One player is nominated as the tagger, all other players run around the meeting space and when tagged must freeze, standing with arms out legs together, like a scarecrow. The tagged player can be set free if another player runs under one of their arms. The game continues until time is called or a new player is chosen. You could have more than one tagger if playing with a larger group.



GET CREATIVE



10 MINUTES



PREPARATION  
NEEDED

## GET CREATIVE: SCARECROW BISCUITS

### What you'll need :

- Digestive biscuits
- Wafer biscuits
- Icing sugar
- Strawberry laces
- Foam mushrooms
- Skittles or Smarties
- Paper Plates

Create your own edible scarecrow using these simple steps.

- 1** Give each child a paper plate to create their Scarecrow biscuit on.
- 2** Ice a biscuit to create your scarecrow's face.
- 3** Ice together two wafer biscuits, one longer than the other, to create the hat. Place the hat on the top of the scarecrows face.
- 4** Using smarties, or something similar, create two eyes.
- 5** Place a foam mushroom in the middle for the nose.
- 6** Cut a strawberry lace to the right length and place on the biscuit to create a mouth.
- 7** Finally using more strawberry laces, place some around the top of the biscuit to create its hair.





GET ACTIVE



15 MINUTES

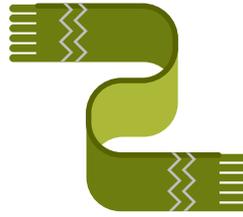


PREPARATION  
NEEDED

## GET ACTIVE: SCARECROW DRESSING UP RELAY

Split into teams and provide each team with a jacket, hat, scarf, trousers, and wellies. Nominate one person in each team to be the scarecrow and ask them to stand at the other end of the room, behind a chair on which the clothing items are placed.

On **go**, one team member runs to the chair, picks up an item and dresses the scarecrow, before running back to their team to tag the next person. Continue this until the scarecrow is dressed with the 5 clothing items. The first team to complete the scarecrow is the winner.



GET INTO  
THE BIBLE



10 MINUTES



IN THE  
CUPBOARD

## GET INTO THE BIBLE: HARVEST WORDS

Start off by asking the group what they know about Harvest and why it is celebrated. Once you have set the scene, use this activity to help reinforce the themes behind Harvest festival.

Ask for 7 volunteers and give each one a piece of paper with one of the letters from HARVEST on and get them to spell out Harvest. Using these 7 letters, we can now create some key words. Get your volunteers to spell out the words as you say them.

**HAVE** – Harvest is a time for thanking God for all the food and resources that we have

**EARTH** – All the crops we have come from the earth, which God has given us. Can your group name some foods which are grown from the earth?

**EAT** – Because we have these crops, we can eat and not go hungry

**STARVE** – but not everyone is so lucky. Many people around the world go hungry each day and don't have enough food.

**SHARE** – At Harvest people try to share what they have by giving to those who need it

Finish in prayer, thanking God for everything we have and praying for those who are less fortunate in this world.

