



A WORSHIP RESOURCE FOR WORLD FOOD DAY

Photo: Meagan Silencieux

Your Kingdom Banquet Come

 Canadian
Foodgrains
Bank
A Christian Response
to Hunger



CANADIAN FOODGRAINS BANK IS A PARTNERSHIP OF 15 CANADIAN CHURCHES AND CHURCH-BASED AGENCIES WORKING TOGETHER TO END GLOBAL HUNGER BY:

- Supporting international programs to meet immediate food needs, reduce malnutrition, and achieve sustainable food security;
- Influencing improvements in national and international policies that contribute to ending global hunger
- Increasing and deepening the engagement of Canadians in efforts to end global hunger.



About World Food Day

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) created World Food Day to commemorate its founding in Quebec City, October 16, 1945. The goal of the FAO is to free humanity from hunger and malnutrition, and to effectively manage the global food system. World Food Day events are organized in over 150 countries across the world, making it one of the most celebrated days of the UN calendar. These events promote worldwide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and help strengthen the link between agriculture and food security.

Did you know?

The spread of COVID-19 has created serious challenges for people at home and abroad. For the 690 million people facing hunger, the disruptions to food systems and economic slowdown have increased food insecurity, and pushed many who were already struggling to put food on the table into crisis. Just as grocery stores, food supply chains and the expansion of our social safety net have been treated as essential services here in Canada, the Foodgrains Bank continues its international programs as an essential service during this crisis and is supporting and sustaining these programs as much as possible.

Included in this resource are suggested ways for churches to take action



PRAY

A worship service including prayers, songs and other diverse elements to help you focus your worship time on the issue of hunger.



GIVE

Suggestions for making a donation to help people around the world who don't have enough food.



LEARN

Information and resources to help your congregation learn more about how the pandemic is affecting global food security.



ADVOCATE

Ideas on how to get involved by sending an e-postcard or a personal letter to your MP and let them know that you care about Canada's role in responding to the impacts of the pandemic on our neighbours both here and abroad.



Photo: Shaylyn McMahon

PRAY

Suggested Scripture Readings

Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 23
Phillipians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

Call to Worship

In the darkest valley,
at the banquet table;
in the hard work of life,
at the moments of ease;
in our day-to-day reality,
at times set aside—
like this time, now—
for worship, for listening, for paying attention;
with every step we take:
goodness and mercy follow us;
our cups overflow.

*written by Joanna Harader and posted on
Spacious Faith. www.spaciousfaith.com*

Opening Prayer

INVITATION TO THE BANQUET (BASED ON PSALM 23 AND MATTHEW 22: 1-14)

Gracious God,
in love You open wide the doors
and welcome us into Your presence—
saints and sinners alike.
You spread a table before us,
filled with the richest fare—
a feast of love and mercy
for the body and soul.

We come with joy to meet You here,
to eat and drink at Your table,
to taste and see Your goodness,
to celebrate Your grace and mercy in our lives.

May Your Spirit inspire our praise and thanksgiving,
our prayers and petitions
as we worship together in Your presence.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our host and Lord.
Amen.

www.re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/09/opening-prayer-matthew-22-1-14.html

Litany of Praise

PSALM 23

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want..."
The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;

We believe in the goodness of God.
We believe God hears and responds to our needs.
We believe God responds to all children everywhere.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters, he restores my soul.

We are grateful that we've been
blessed with enough water.
But we know that many do not have enough.
Not enough water, not enough food, not enough peace.

He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Too many children do not see God's righteousness.
Too many children watch violence,
taste hunger, feel fear.
Too many children cry from the
unspeakable horror of war.

Even though I walk through the
valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy
rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

To become involved is risky. Pain is often contagious.
Our hearts may be broken and our
lives may be threatened.
Yet we hear God calling and we can no longer hide.

Thou preparest a table for me in the
presence of my enemies;
thou annointest my head with oil, my cup overflows.

Our steps may be small and timid.
We may read a book, write a letter, or make a gift.
But each tiny step is blessed by God and multiplies.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow
me all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

God is more relentless than war.
God is more pervasive than hatred.

God is more insistent than despair.
Amen.

Written by Katherine Hawker, 1994. Posted on Liturgy Outside.

Prayer of Confession

A PLACE AT THE TABLE

Loving God,
Jesus likened your kingdom to a banquet
and invited his followers
to eat and drink at the table in remembrance.
But when he saw injustice,
he turned over tables in the temple.

We honour You, generous God,
for the abundance of creation.
You prepare a table before us.
We thank You, generous God,
for giving manna to the Israelites –
and to us when we find ourselves
in places of wilderness.

You prepare a table before us.
We praise You, generous God,
for the gift of Jesus,
who modeled faithfulness to you
and who feeds us with holy food and drink.

You prepare a table before us.
We admit, gracious God,
that we have failed to assure
that our neighbours at home and abroad
have access to the food they need.

Overturn the tables in our hearts.
We confess, gracious God,
our struggles to trust in Your abundance.

Overturn the tables in our hearts.
We acknowledge, gracious God,
our silence when we should have spoken
and our passivity when we should have acted
to end hunger.

Overturn the tables in our hearts.
And so, loving God,
we ask for strength that we might do your will,
and live with faithfulness and integrity.

Prepare a table before us.
Surely your goodness and unfailing love

will follow us all the days of our lives,
and we will dwell in the house of
the Lord forever. Amen.

*From "A Place at the Table," posted on the Bread
for the World website (altered slightly).*

Prayer of Confession

(INSPIRED BY MATTHEW 22:1-10)

God of grace, you invite us to a banquet,
and we don't even respond.
You set us a place at the table, but
we find excuses not to come.
You lovingly prepare for our arrival,
yet we ignore your efforts.
Forgive us, God.

God of creation, you give us a world
capable of abundance,
but we act as if it is a world of scarcity.
You give us the resources and the
intelligence to provide for all,
yet we lack the will and the vision
to feed all of your children.
Forgive us, God, for filling our plates
while others go hungry.

God of love, you call us to be the
body of Christ in the world,
but we hoard the blessings of communion for ourselves.
Instead of loving our neighbors, we are
consumed by the love of self.
Instead of loving you, we bow before
idols of our own making.
Forgive us, God.

God of hope, we avert our eyes when
we see hunger and need;
we close our ears to the cries of the
poor and the oppressed;
we refuse to let our minds be opened
to the realities of our world;
we refuse to let our hearts overflow
with love and compassion.
Forgive us, God.

God of mercy, as you once again call us to
your table, help us to respond in faith.
Forgive our failures and help us to learn from them.
Change our hearts and minds as we
hear your good news proclaimed.

Help us to taste and see the goodness
you have prepared for us,
and for the world. Amen.

Written by John W. Vest, and posted on www.johnvest.com

Words of Assurance

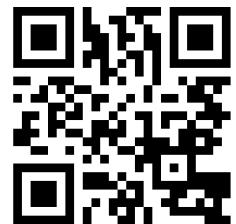
The same God who delivered Israel from her slavery
is the God who delivers us from our slavery to sin.
God has made a way to freedom
through the blood of Jesus Christ.
Thanks be to God!
The same God who gave Israel
a pillar of cloud by day
and a pillar of fire by night
is the God who sent the Spirit to lead and to guide.
Let us follow with joy!
Amen.

Written by Greg Scheer. His website is www.gregscheer.com

Opportunities for Response

BULLETIN OR ORAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Canadian Foodgrains Bank is inviting people of faith
to use their voice by sending an e-postcard, email or
handwritten letter to show their support for Canada's
role in helping our global neighbours who are facing
hunger. As Christians, we're called to be a voice for
those in need. Send an e-postcard to your member of
Parliament to let them know you support a generous
Canadian response to COVID-19
both at home and abroad to
address the immediate health
crisis and resulting hunger
crisis. To send an e-postcard
with your cellphone, scan
this code using your camera
or any QR code reader
app. You can also share one
at www.foodgrainsbank.ca/epostcard



Prayer of Commitment

God our Father,
We give you thanks
for the abundance of your creation,
and the generosity of your gifts.
We are sorry that amongst us
are so many people
who are excluded from the feast

prepared by you for us all.
May your Spirit inspire us and lead us
as we seek change,
so that hunger and poverty
are no longer a scar and scandal in our world.
May your Spirit guide us as we seek change,
so everybody has enough food to flourish
and a place at the table you spread for all.

Taken from the CAFOD website.

Focus Prayer

BASED ON PHILIPPIANS 4

Almighty God, most powerful, most near, most good
We surrender our worries to you
We have made our needs and desires known
You will bring goodness and mercy

Thank you for your steadfast love and faithfulness
Thank you for saving power, your grace upon grace
Your peace surpasses all need and understanding

Guard our hearts with your peace
Guard our minds with your peace
Guard us now and always in Christ
Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

We focus our attention and hope on your goodness,
your truth, your honor, your justice.
All are at work in your world.

We focus our attention and hope on your goodness,
your purity, your delight, your commending.
All are at work in your world.

We focus our attention and hope on your goodness,
your excellence, your praise.
All are at work in your world.
All are at work in each one of us, our
situations, in this very moment.

God of Peace and Hope, focus our attention, our power,
our resources to keep doing all you show
us to be right, for you are with us.
Focus us on your promise, no matter
the season or situation,
for the building of your kingdom and
the glory of your name. Amen.

Adapted from "Focus Me" © 2017 Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia

Song Suggestion

MARTY HAUGEN – ALL ARE WELCOME

www.youtube.com/watch?v=GlnVLP0qFEo

Prayer for the Offerings

Giver of life and love, we thank you
that in the heavenly banquet of your word you
invigorate and renew us. May we boldly use your gifts
to continue your work in the world.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

www.stdavidsmoorabbin.com

Prayer at the Table

ENOUGH

O God of Grace and Mercy,
we are a nation of all-you-can-eat
buffets and fast foods.
We have forgotten what it is to eat
what we need to be healthy,
and to know when we have had enough.
Remind us of the morning manna in the desert,
of simply gathering what is needed each day,
and gratefully trusting in your provision for the next.
Disturb us at the thought of "haves" and "have-nots."
Help us to realize that a true feast is not
defined by the quantity of food,
but by the certainty that everyone—even our enemy—
has a welcome place at the table. Amen.

*Deborah Harris, in Feast Together.
Posted on the Seeds Publishers website.*

Prayer at the Table

GOD OUR HOST

O Holy One,
you are our host as well as our shepherd.
You invite us to the banquet,
the banquet of life.
All parts of the world are invited –
enemies and friends,
the alienated and powerful,
those close at hand and those far off.
You offer the abundance and lavishness
of bread broken and shared

and the cup of refreshment that leads to new life.
We praise and thank you for your abundant spirit.
Goodness and love unfailing,
these will follow us all the days of our lives,
and we shall dwell in the home of our God
for all eternity.

*Excerpted from a paraphrase of Psalm 23 written by Sonya Dyer.
From Sonya Dyer's Prayerbook, posted on www.seekerschurch.org.*

Prayer of Intercession

God, we come into Your presence
with praise and thanksgiving for Your faithful love.
Your love never fails—not even when
we turn away from You:
when we ignore Your invitation,
or desert You for gods of our own making.
Even then You do not abandon us,
but reach out—again and again—
inviting us back into relationship once more.

As You welcome us, so You welcome our prayers.
We bring them to You with confidence,
knowing that You will hear and answer.

We pray for the world You created, and
the people who share it with us:
for those caught up in war or violent conflict,
for farmers struggling to adapt to the changing climate,
for the millions in our world who are starving,
for the millions who are chronically hungry
for greater action on our part to feed the hungry,
for those who harden their hearts against the poor,
for all who work to eliminate world hunger,
for all our neighbours, both known and unknown to us,
Lord, hear our prayer.

Pour out Your Spirit, unite us as one human family.
Fix our hearts and minds on what is
true and honourable and right,
as we search for better ways to serve your
people and work together to end hunger.
Keep us faithful to the call we have
received in Christ Jesus, our Lord,
extending Your loving invitation to the world around us.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Adapted from Banquet of Praise (1990),
published by Bread for the World.*

Closing Prayer

Most gracious God, who gives the fruits of the earth
for the benefit of all your creatures,
we give thanks to you
for abundant harvests and plentiful food.
We pray for those in our land who
are denied these gifts,
and we seek your forgiveness for
our complicity in their want.
We pray for those whose voices are not
heard and for those who do not hear.
Forgive us when our choices are selfish
ones, and forgive us especially
when we do not choose to raise our own voice
against the pain of those among us
who suffer needless want.
Most of all, God, we give you thanks
for the revelation of your love in Jesus Christ,
who came that everyone might have abundant life.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Augustinian Secretariate for Justice and Peace
www.midwestaugustinians.org*

Benediction

As you have been loved – love.
As you have been welcomed – welcome.
As you have been fed – feed.
As you have received – give.
And may the boundless love of God,
the grace of Jesus Christ,
and the presence of the Holy Spirit
be always with you. Amen.





A Banquet for All

Children's Feature

Photo: World Renew/Helen Manson



GATHER THE CHILDREN AND READ THE FOLLOWING, AND THEN LEAD THE WONDERING QUESTIONS.

Leader: “Our gospel reading today talks about how the Kingdom of God is like a banquet or a huge party. The people who were invited say they have more important things to do and they don’t go to the party. But Jesus says, how sad for them to miss out on such an awesome celebration – everyone is invited, you me, everyone in our church, and everyone on the whole planet! God wants us to know that we don’t have to wait for the party, it can be right here and now – if we do little things every day that make our lives and the lives of others just like a banquet, where there is enough food for all, and everyone has a place at the table. “

Wondering questions: These are suggested questions to spark conversation and wondering for the children (and congregation). After each question, allow the children time to respond freely without giving them feedback.

- How does it feel to be invited to a party? Or to be left out?
- What things could seem more important than being with God?
- What we can do to show God we want to be at the celebration too?

Leader: Eating different kinds of nutritious foods every day helps us grow strong, healthy bodies. We can also develop spiritual habits that help us grow. In the same way that it’s not just about how MUCH food you eat, but what KIND of food you eat – practicing different ways of showing love, compassion, generosity, and respect for others is how we show God we want to be at the Banquet too!

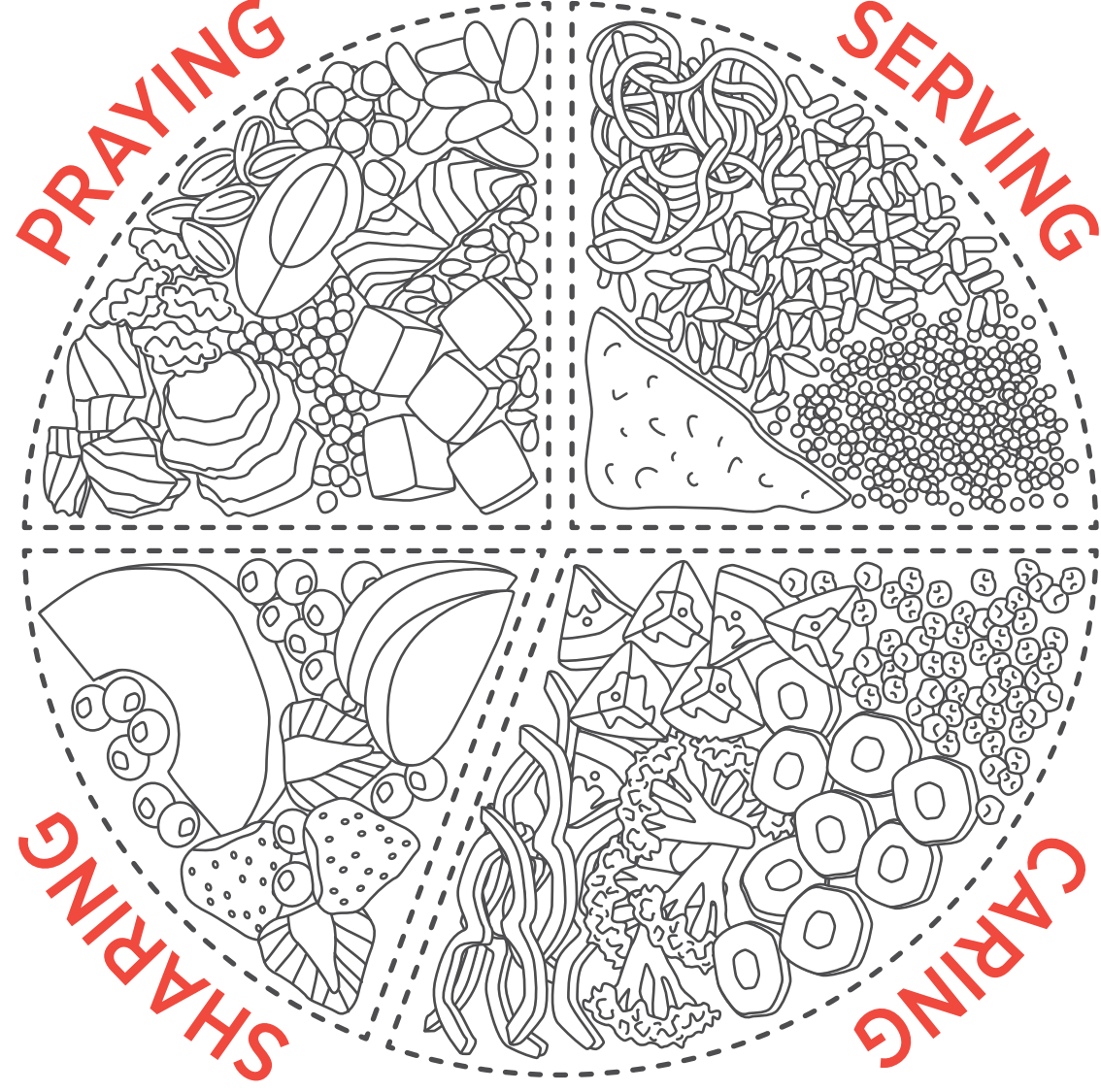
Prayer: God of the Banquet, we thank you for inviting each of us to be a part of all the incredible things you have planned for those who follow and love you! Thank you for preparing a place for everyone here (you could have each child say their own name here as well). Help us to build healthy habits that nourish our spirits, and show you that we want to be at your party too. Amen.

CRAFT (GETTING READY FOR THE BANQUET)

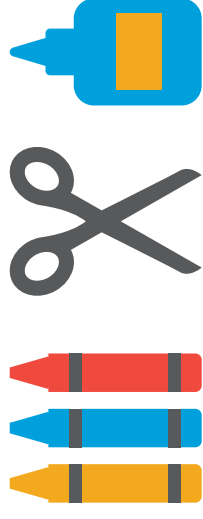
Color, cut and paste different kinds of foods that make up a nutritious meal, and also represent the different ways we can show we want to follow God’s call.

Note: If leading a virtual class, be sure to send the colouring pages in advance. OR Hand out 2 copies of the colouring page to each child. In a church setting, these can be coloured during class. In a children’s feature setting, have the children bring their page back to their seats.

A BANQUET FOR ALL



For this activity you will need:



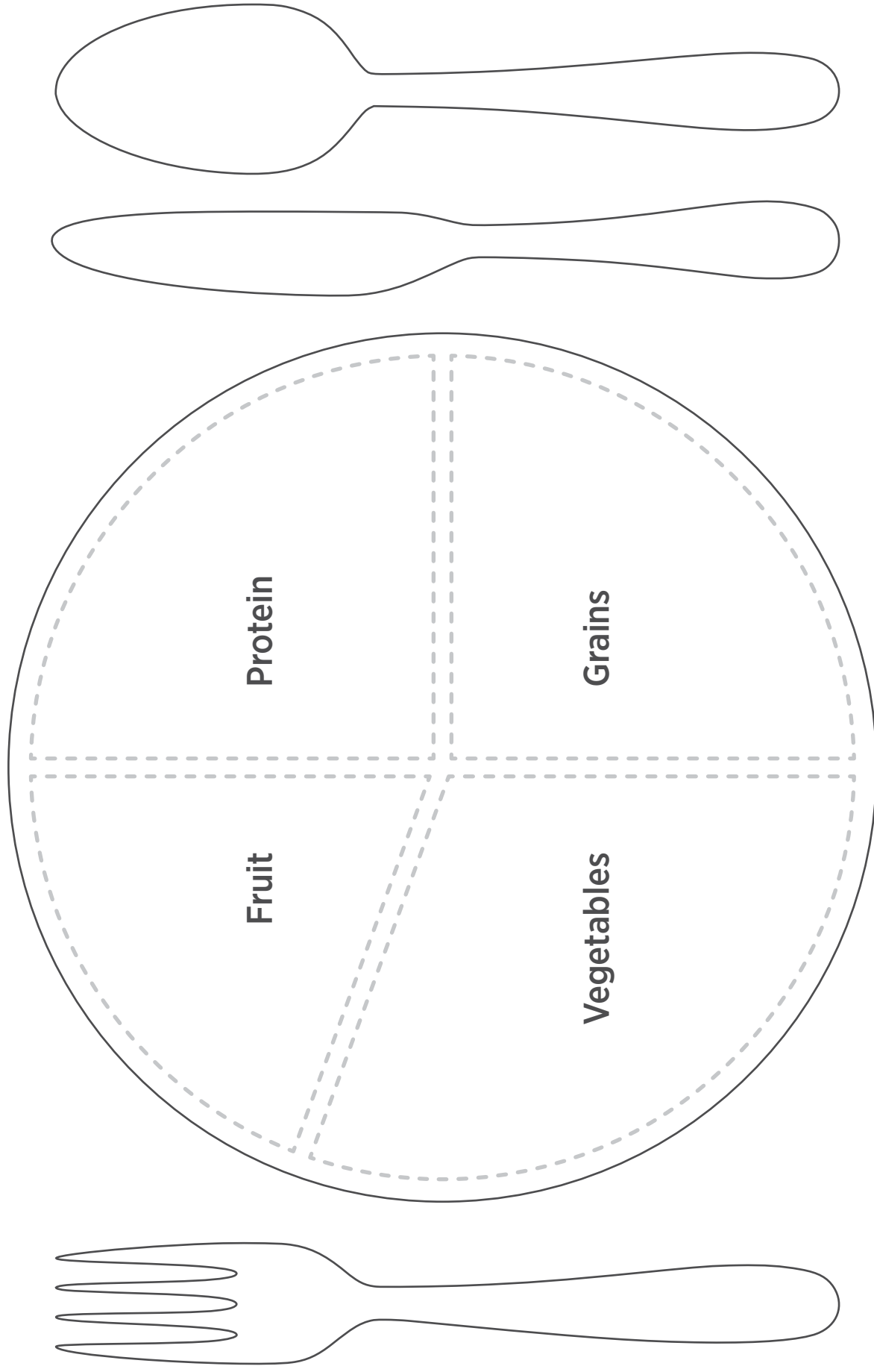
Eating different kinds of nutritious foods every day helps us grow strong, healthy bodies. We can also develop spiritual habits that help us grow.

In the same way that it's not just about how MUCH food you eat, but what KIND of food you eat – practicing different ways of showing love, compassion, generosity, and respect for others is how we show God we want to be at the Banquet too!

Colour, cut & paste the different food groups that fill the plate with nutritious foods. Next, brainstorm ideas on how you can start practicing some healthy habits that nourish you, body AND soul!

WORLD FOOD DAY (October 16th) is a day to remember that EVERYONE deserves to grow up well nourished. While the 690 million people who aren't getting enough food are of utmost concern, there are also many more than people struggling with poor quality diets and cannot access enough nutritious food. Visit foodgrainsbank.ca for learning activities about food and how you can help!

Did you
Know?





GIVE

Photo: Terepeza Development Association

“From the harvest of 205 pumpkins, I provided 70 to my neighbours who were having a food shortage. I had had the same history of asking neighbours for help at times of shortage before I participated in this project.”

After learning about conservation agriculture through Tearfund Canada and their local partner Terepeza Development Association (TDA), Ethiopian farmer Asnakech Zema tested the techniques and planted corn on a 20 x 30 metre plot of land in 2018. The corn grown using conservation agriculture principles yielded 550 kg, compared to the 50 kg Asnakech was able to harvest from the same size of land using conventional farming methods. The corn grown using conservation agriculture techniques, coupled with other best farming practices she learned through TDA, enabled Asnakech to grow enough food to feed her family and share with neighbours in need, with additional surplus to sell for income.

“Everything has changed in the last year and a half,” says Asnakech. “We have reduced the hunger gap where we only eat one meal a day to just 2 months, and that may further reduce. All the family works together, and we will train our children to do this kind of productive conservation agriculture farming. I am so thankful for my church and TDA that led me to take this training.”



During the pandemic disruptions, Foodgrains Bank members continued supporting small-scale farmers like Asnakech as they planted crops and learned how to store surplus while maintaining safe distances and following all safety precautions.

This is just one example of the many ways Canadian churches are working together to end global hunger through the Foodgrains Bank. Your gift plays an important role in creating lasting change for communities worldwide, ensuring families can access more food through the pandemic and beyond.

Visit foodgrainsbank.ca to learn more.

LEARN



Seven ways the global pandemic is making it harder for people to feed their families

Putting food on the table is even harder for vulnerable people



If you are living in poverty, in a conflict zone, elderly or a person with a disability, you are at a greater risk of hunger.

Women face a growing burden



Care-giving for those who fall ill will most likely be your responsibility as a woman. With schools closed and children home it will be harder to work, so your earnings will drop increasing the likelihood that you will face hunger without additional family support.

Millions depend on a daily wage



When you cannot get out to earn wages to buy food and have no savings, you may quickly be thrown into crisis. If you have never owned a refrigerator or live in an area with unreliable electricity, you cannot use the money you have to stock up for more than a day or two.

Emergency food is more difficult to distribute



Food assistance programs are disrupted by restrictions on movement, transportation and group gatherings. 368 million children worldwide are no longer receiving a school meal because of school closures.

Farmers are having trouble getting crops to market



With the restrictions in your community, as a farmer you might not be able to move any crop surplus off your farm to sell. Seeds, tools and other inputs are harder to get and workers can't or won't travel to work.

People are already changing what or when they eat



Money is running out fast, so you're eating less often and feeding your family cheaper food like maize or rice. They are less nutritious and you're risking malnutrition for everyone, including the baby due in a few months, but at least your family has something to eat.

People are selling equipment or assets to feed their families



If restrictions go on much longer, you can't earn income, have no savings and live in a country with no social safety net. You may need to sell valuable livestock or tools for food. It may take a few of years to recover without them, but you can't think about that now.

SOURCES: Global Report on Food Crises - World Food Programme, April 2020.
The Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security and Nutrition, United Nations, June 2020.

