

Giving Thanks and Giving Out



Welcome

Food Chains

In threes or fours, think of one processed food or beverage you have consumed today eg. Tea with milk and sugar. On a large sheet of Paper, draw a diagram or picture to trace the step-by step process of its manufacture right back to its most God created elements.

OR

Green fingers

Invite the group to talk about their farming or gardening experiences. Do they have green fingers? What do they find most satisfying (or not) about growing plants?

Worship

Harvest Display

Bring fruit vegetables and flowers to the meeting as well as containers, oasis etc if needed. Make a table centrepiece or a decoration to go on a windowsill at your local church's harvest service. Pray over your work - beginning with a prayer of dedication for your activity and ending with a reading of Psalm 104 and some praise to God.

One way to make a display would be to make a display based on Psalm 104 including:-

a white sheet to represent light v2
blue cloth for the sea v6

toy animals & people (v11 & 15)

cut outs of fish (v5)

brown rug to represent earth v5

boxes under the material to make
mountains & valleys v8

blue ribbons in between mountains to
make streams and ravines (v10)

toy boats (v26)

After you have finished reading the psalm, read v 33-34 again; look at your display and think about all that God has given, sustained, nurtured and provided. Let this lead you into a time of group prayer and thanksgiving.

OR

What soil are you?

You will need small cards or slips of paper, pens, four beans for each person, four foil baking trays or shallow dishes filled with

i) gravel ii) shallow earth iii) tangled "weeds" iv) rich soil/compost

Ask someone to read Matthew 13.1-9. Each time they come to the phrase "some seed fell" ask group members to drop one of their seeds into the corresponding soil type. Then go on to read Matthew 13.18-23

Invite the group to spend some time in silence, listening to what God is saying. Ask these two questions with pauses:

What is God wanting to grow in you at the moment?

What type of soil are you at the moment? Encourage people to write their responses and put them somewhere where they can be reviewed in a few months time.

Word

You will need copies of Psalm 104 on paper and highlighter pens.

1. What are some of the things you have taken for granted in the past? Which of these things have you realised afresh are given, sustained, nurtured and provided by God?
2. Give out the copies of the psalm and invite people to highlight or underline every verb (action) which indicates Go's activity in creation e.g. "he covered it v^" or "he makes grass grow" v14
3. Identify all the deliberate activity that God carries out to create, sustain and nuture our world as mentioned in the psalm What difference does it make to our lives when we recognise God's creative activity , provision and care? - e.g.. to our worries, to our attitudes, to our giving, to our conversations, to our worship?

Witness

Harvest Festival

Pray for local harvest festival events. Are there any you could help with as a cell - or invite friends to?

OR/ AND

Alpha

Ask the group who is going to the Alpha meal at the Showground on 2nd October and who you hope to invite to come too. Book your tickets with William Ball. Pray together for God's blessing on everyone who will be invited to that event including those whom you plan to invite yourselves.

Take some Alpha invitations to give to others.

Make a list of anyone who can help with cooking puddings for the Tas Valley Alpha Course- starting on Mon 6th Oct and give to William Ball.

