

Kids Connection

November 2020



November is all about HARVEST!

During this time of year, the weather changes and the days get shorter, and crops that are ripe and finished growing are gathered. While we might not do any actual harvesting ourselves, we can still take time in this season to reflect on the meaning and impact of a harvest. In this packet you'll find details on how to learn more about and explore the harvest every Sunday/week in November.

Harvest is about...

1

REMEMBERING

The harvest helps us remember the many ways that God provides for us.

2

SHARING

The harvest calls us to be willing to share with others out of the abundance we have.

3

THANKSGIVING

The harvest allows us to reflect on all we have and to offer thanks with others.

About Kids Connection

Kids Connection exists to give children and families a way to focus on a particular component of our faith throughout the month through different types of connections.

Zoom Meeting

On the first Sunday of each month, we'll meet on Zoom following online worship to play games, sing, hear a story, & enjoy a snack (virtually) all together as we introduce our theme for the month.

At Home Activities

Every week there will be several activities - like stories to read, actions to take, prayers to say, questions to discuss - to help children and families dig in to the theme for the month.

In Person Event

Near the end of every month there will be an in person gathering of some kind for children and families to be together - in the safest ways possible - to learn more and share about their experiences with the theme for the month.

Week of Sunday, November 1

WAYS to CONNECT this DAY/WEEK

- Join us for a Zoom meeting following worship. We'll play a game, sing songs together, hear a story about the harvest, and share a snack virtually. Zoom Meeting ID: 880 9299 2004

Week of Sunday, November 8

Harvest Reflection Guide included!

WAYS to CONNECT this DAY/WEEK

- As a family, find time this week, maybe outside, to work through the Harvest Reflection Guide.

Week of Sunday, November 15

Three Harvest/Thanksgiving Activities included!

WAYS to CONNECT this DAY/WEEK

- As a family or on your own, make time to do one or more of the Harvest/Thanksgiving Activities.
 - Harvest Hymn Illustrations: learn a new song and illustrate a verse & chorus
 - Thanksgiving Twenty Questions: think about things you are grateful for & let others guess
 - I Am Thankful Coloring Sheet: as you color, share about things you are thankful for

Week of Sunday, November 22

WAYS to CONNECT this DAY/WEEK

Join us for apple pressing at Martha VanCleave's home!

All families are invited to join us at Martha's (4700 NE Dawn Lane in Dayton, OR) for apple pressing and lunch around noon. Call Martha at 503/435-7994 if you need anything.

Here's everything you need to know/bring:

- We'll pick apples from Martha's trees - or feel free to bring your own - and then prep them by washing and cutting in halves/quarters. Then we'll grind and press the apples in to cider!
- Please bring lunch for your family, bags or buckets for gathering and transferring apples, empty containers for cider (plus cups for drinking!), and chairs or blankets.
- Please bring/wear masks, we'll rotate families through the apple pressing process and keep social distance. We'll have canopies set up in case it rains, plus yard games to play and lots to explore on Martha's property.

Week of Sunday, November 29

WAYS to CONNECT this DAY/WEEK

- Enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday/weekend! Spend time with family and friends - in a safe way! - remembering all you have, sharing with others, and offering thanks together.

Harvest Reflection Guide

Someone in your family read Leviticus 9:9-10 (from The Message).

When you harvest your land, don't harvest right up to the edges of your field or gather the gleanings from the harvest. Don't strip your vineyard bare or go back and pick up the fallen grapes. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am God, your God.

Someone else in your family read Deuteronomy 24:19-21 (from The Message).

When you harvest your grain and forget a sheaf back in the field, don't go back and get it; leave it for the foreigner, the orphan, and the widow so that God, your God, will bless you in all your work. When you shake the olives off your trees, don't go back over the branches and strip them bare—what's left is for the foreigner, the orphan, and the widow. And when you cut the grapes in your vineyard, don't take every last grape—leave a few for the foreigner, the orphan, and the widow.

Now ask and discuss these reflection questions, giving everyone an opportunity to share.

- Why would God instruct the people to NOT harvest everything in their fields?
- If it's their land, why can't they do whatever they want with it?
- What's wrong with harvesting to the edges and going back to pick up anything that has fallen or was missed?
- What might the people do with this extra part of the harvest if they decide to keep it?
- How do you think the people feel about leaving some of the harvest for the poor, the foreigner, the orphan, and the widow?
- How might these passages of scripture apply to us - our family and our world - today?

Now read this overview of gleaning and discuss the questions that follow.

from the USDA Gleaning Toolkit

Gleaning is simply the act of collecting excess fresh foods from farms, gardens, farmers markets, grocers, restaurants, or any other sources in order to provide it to those in need. Each year, well over 100 billion pounds of food are thrown away in this country. Some estimates from 2009 indicate that up to 20 percent of America's entire food supply goes to waste. At the same time there are 49 million people, including more than 16 million children, who are at risk of going hungry. Gleaning – the practice of collecting and donating excess foods – helps simultaneously address these pressing issues. Importantly, it also gives low-income individuals access to fresh and locally grown foods that are not always available in their communities. In fact, more than 23 million Americans, including 6.5 million children, live in low-income urban and rural neighborhoods that are known “food deserts,” where affordable, quality, and nutritious foods are inaccessible.

- What are some ways that you can be part of gleaning in your community?
- How might the idea gleaning apply to something other than food?
- What do you have an abundance of? And how can you share this with others?

Close by saying this prayer together.

Loving God, we give you thanks for all that you have given us.
Help us to reflect on all that we have, and find ways to share with others.
Thank you for the abundance in our lives.
Amen.

Harvest Hymn Illustrations

from Faithful Celebrations: Making Time for God in Autumn

“We Plough the Fields and Scatter” is an English hymn commonly associated with the harvest festival. It is a traditionally sung on Thanksgiving Day.

As individuals or in groups, select a verse & chorus, grab some paper and crayons/markers, and illustrate that portion of the hymn.

Once complete, search for a video or audio version of the hymn online and, as you play it, have each individual/group hold up their illustration as their portion is sung.

VERSE ONE

We plough the fields
and scatter
The good seed
on the land,
But it is fed and watered
By God's almighty hand;
He sends the snow
in winter,
The warmth to swell
the grain,
The breezes
and the sunshine
And soft refreshing rain.

CHORUS

All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven
above,
Then thank the Lord,
O thank the Lord
For all his love.

VERSE TWO

He only is the maker
Of all things near
and far;
He paints the
wayside flower,
He lights the
evening star;
The wind and waves
obey him,
By him the birds are fed;
Much more to us
his children,
He gives our daily bread.

CHORUS

All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven
above,
Then thank the Lord,
O thank the Lord
For all his love.

VERSE THREE

We thank you, then,
O Father,
For all things bright
and good,
The seed-time
and the harvest,
Our life, our health,
our food:
Accept the gifts we offer
For all your love imparts;
And that which you
most welcome,
Our humble, thankful
hearts.

CHORUS

All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven
above,
Then thank the Lord,
O thank the Lord
For all his love.

Thanksgiving Twenty Questions

from Faithful Celebrations: Making Time for God in Autumn

This is a special variation of the traditional game Twenty Questions. The original game was known to Puritan children, in which one participant thinks of an object and tells the other participants whether it is an animal, vegetable, or mineral. The Thanksgiving version is to select objects that are something for which the participant is grateful.

DIRECTIONS

1. Invite one person to think of something for which they are grateful.
2. Everyone else takes turns asking up to 20 questions in order to guess the name of the object.
3. Each question must be able to be answered only with “yes” or “no,” for example:
 1. Is it a person?
 2. Is it bigger than you?
 3. Can you eat it?
 4. Is there one in this room?
 5. Can you buy it?
4. Whoever guesses correctly gets to think of the next item to be guessed. If no one guesses it correctly after twenty questions, the person can share the object with others and select someone to think of the next item.
5. Continue playing until everyone has been able to think of an item at least once.
6. At the end of the game, talk about all the things that everyone is thankful for, especially if there is anything that surprised someone or needs more to be shared.

I Am Thankful Coloring Sheet

