

BRIEF OUTLINE FOR HARVEST ASSEMBLY by Jackie Price (see Jackie's handwritten document for full details. This is just for me to present the assembly)
Matthew 14: 13-21

Read from 'the Message' – Matthew 14: 13-21

Mark chapter 6

Invite 7 younger children to come up front and hold the word 'Harvest'. THEN invite 2 older children who know how to spell to come up front to be my 'spellers'. Be sure to tell them that I will indicate when to spell the various words. Be sure to re-arrange the letters and not the children.

Well, now that we are sorted, let's think about the story I read to you from the Book of Matthew. Many people around the world will not have a harvest this year and they will be very hungry indeed. Why is this? Is it because God doesn't care about them?

The Bible story from Matthew helps us to understand the answers to these questions. In the story we heard about a very large group of people who were sitting by the SEA. Jesus had just arrived by boat and was healing people that were sick. Because there were so many people who needed Him, it took a long time and got very late. People started to get hungry because they hadn't had their TEA. But they didn't want to leave because they wanted to see Jesus. There were probably even a few TEARS from the children who were getting hungry.

SO WHAT DID JESUS DO ABOUT THIS PROBLEM? (Ask them) FIRST, Jesus asked his friends, the disciples, to give people something to EAT. He told THEM to try and sort the problem out.

Well this was kind of embarrassing because they didn't have any food to share so they went amongst the crowd asking – Does anyone have anything to EAT? Would anyone be willing to SHARE their food?

Most people had eaten all their food but one boy had the sense to SAVE a little bit of his lunch, in case he felt hungry later. I wonder, what I would have done if I had been that little boy? I wonder if I would have shared my food. I wonder if I would have thought that such a little amount of food would make no difference at all so I'll just HAVE all the food for myself.

But his boy didn't think that way. In his HEART he loved Jesus and wanted to help him feed this huge crowd. So he gave the little bit of food he had to Jesus. Jesus gave thanks to God for the food, and then used the food to feed all those thousands of people. Everyone had enough to EAT and no one went home with the feeling that he was about to STARVE. Afterwards, when the disciples started to pick up all the litter, they picked up 12 basketfuls of leftover food.

(Get children to make the word SHARE)

Now what can we learn from this story? We know that Jesus loves us and he doesn't want people to go hungry. He wants us to think about what we can do to help. HOW DO YOU THINK WE CAN HELP OUT? (Food, money, time, friendship etc.)

So you see, if we look around us and see someone who needs help, there are a lot of ways we can help. We can pray and ask God what he wants us to do about it and even if we can only give a little, that's ok by Jesus. Because in Jesus' hands, He can turn a very little of something into a whole lot something and can be a huge help.

And remember, like Jesus did in the story, thank God for what He has given us because he loves us very much and will provide us with what we need.

Let's pray: Dear Jesus, thank you so much for giving us family and friends. Thank you so much for the food you give us and our houses to live in. And thank you most of all for giving us your great love. Amen