

HELPING HAND 2021 - FEEDING HOPE: ALL GENERATIONS SUPPORTING ALL GENERATIONS

TRANSFORMERS+ GUIDE

PREPARATION

- Read through this guide
- Look at some pictures of Zimbabwe (use your phone or computer, or look in books at the library)
- Read the Farmers' Stories found on our website
- Download the *Feeding Hope* comic found on our website

INTRODUCTION

You can use this to create your own customised introduction for your Transformers+ session.

This session will enable your Transformers+ group to explore some of the challenges faced by farmers and their families in Zimbabwe. In reading the Farmers' Stories, you will discover the virtuous relationship between people and environment. The supporting resources will also reveal how The Salvation Army is helping to improve outcomes for families and communities, and what we might understand about God's character in creation from the Bible. Read through the stories in the resource so that you are familiar with the situations faced by the families in Zimbabwe.

WHAT IS FOOD SECURITY?

Food security, as defined by the United Nations' Committee on World Food Security, means that all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Through its food security programmes around the world, The Salvation Army provides training and confidence building so that individual families from one generation to another can thrive, whole communities can benefit, and The Salvation Army can grow through the planting of new corps. As you read the stories provided, you will see how this 'virtuous relationship' between people, environment and The Salvation Army works.

The title 'Feeding Hope' refers to two things:

1. When a farm's crop increases, the farmer and his/her family can have the confidence to know that the future they hope for is secure. The family will have enough food for themselves and enough to sell for an income. This means their children can be assured of an education and access to healthcare.
2. Families work the land together, and when the children can see their parents succeeding it gives them hope in choosing to support the family farm – all generations supporting all generations.

BIBLE REFERENCES

Mark 4:1-20 – The Parable of the Sower
 Philippians 4:19
 2 Corinthians 5:17

ACTIVITIES

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- Conversation starter: using a phone or tablet, open the PowerPoint slides (**see downloads for 'Conversation Starter' PowerPoint**) which have questions, Bible verses, thoughts etc for conversations around the table.
- Photography: why not take photos of farms around the UK? This could be a great time to take photos of them, but in doing so learning about farming. If the photos are good enough you could sell them and make further funds!
- Grow plants: participants could grow plants from seeds and look after them as a farmer would look after his crops.
- Read through the *Feeding Hope* comic.

FUNDRAISING SUGGESTIONS

- **Grow plants to sell:** following on from the 'Grow Plants' activity, once grown, you could sell these.
- **Experiences:** think of experiences and packages that you could put together to 'sell' to raise funds, eg picnic packages, treat boxes, date nights etc.
- **Games night:** self-explanatory! Don't forget to mention why you are fundraising!
- **Quiz night:** include a round on Zimbabwe/farming/food security to link it all together. Make sure you have some drinks and snacks to sell for extra funds!
- **Sponsored litter picking:** you can pick an area in your town that needs the most attention. You can link this to the farmers working a full day on the farm and manual labour – you can also link this to how the farmers have to prepare the land so that it is fertile, it can take in the seeds and help grow fantastic crops. Clearing the rubbish that is polluting the town is like a farmer ensuring that the land is ready for life.
- **Photography sale:** why not print and mount the photos you shot of the farms and sell them?
- **Coffee morning:** you could also set up a cake/secondhand book/toy stall.
- **Money box:** using the money box wrapper (**see website**), find an old jar you can use to wrap it round. Then donate what you might have spent on car wash/coffees/takeaway etc and save the money for the Feeding Hope campaign.
- **Clothes swap:** raise money and get some new clothes without buying into fast fashion.
- **Gardening:** do some gardening for neighbours/friends.
- **Donate your skills:** can you babysit, dog walk or bake a birthday cake?
- **Teach a trade:** do you knit? Build furniture? Are you really good at doing French plaits? Or could you offer someone a donation to teach you their trade?
- **Challenge Events:** you could also take part in an organised event as part of The Salvation Army's team, such as the iconic London Marathon, the Ride London 100 cycling challenge, or even make a splash in the Swim Serpentine event! Contact the Challenge Events team (salvationarmy.org.uk/challenge-events) to find out how you can take part specifically for Feeding Hope.
- **Film night:** look online for a list of farming documentaries that you could watch to learn further about farming and food security especially in Africa.



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