

Our Story

- Interpreters suggest that Matthew 25:34-40 might be loosely based on Isaiah 61. Read and discuss both passages at your family or class devotions.
- Discuss Matthew 25:40. Who counts as family today? In what sense are we all part of the family of God? Who are the “least of these”? What does Jesus mean when he says that when we do it to the “least of these,” we do it to him?
- Discuss the personal stories and list of facts.
- Although war, and sometimes natural disasters, most often cause hunger emergencies, long-term malnutrition is caused by poverty and powerlessness. If people had resources, such as land or money, they would buy food. If they had personal and political power, they would demand that their governments help them get on their feet. Discuss what we can do to help reduce poverty and powerlessness in our communities, nation and world.
- Look up www.secondharvest.org and www.bread.org to learn more about hunger and what you can do.
- Pray as a family, as a community, together three times: “O God, give us – all of us – this day our daily bread.”



Uniquely cooperative effort by African Methodist Episcopal Women's Missionary Society, American Baptist Churches USA, America's Second Harvest, Bread for the World Institute, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Reformed Church, Church World Service, Community of Christ, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, The Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America World Hunger Program, Franciscan Friars, Good Ground Press/Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Heifer International, Maryland Province of the Jesuits, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., Presbyterian Hunger Program, Reformed Church in America, Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Committee on Relief, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



When Did We See You Hungry?

God's Story

*Then the king will say to those at his right hand,
“Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom
prepared for you from the foundation of the world;
for I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me”...*

*Then the righteous will answer him,
“Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food,
or thirsty and gave you something to drink?”...*

*And the king will answer them,
“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these
who are members of my family, you did it to me.”*

- Matthew 25:34-40 NRSV



Personal Stories

A Voice from Pakistan

We poor people are invisible to others – just as blind people cannot see, they cannot see us. <www.worldbank.org/poverty/voices>

A Blind Woman from Moldova Speaks

For a poor person everything is terrible – illness, humiliation, shame. We are cripples; we are afraid of everything; we depend on everyone. No one needs us. We are like garbage that everyone wants to get rid of. <www.worldbank.org/poverty/voices>

Lela from the United States Speaks

We get our food from the supermarket and the Beth El Mission. We travel three miles to get our food, but when we are out of gas we cannot go. If we had more money, I would buy more meats and fresh vegetables. We do not have enough money to pay our bills and buy enough food. We get no help from the government. Sometimes I get a bag of food from the mission.



We are going through a time now when we do not have enough food to eat. That's why I came to Beth El Mission (Beth El Presbyterian Ministry). The biggest problem our family is facing is that we need more fresh food and medical help. The one thing I would change to make my life better is to have enough money to pay my bills, and good food in my home.

Hunger Action Leadership Team, *I've Seen Hunger in My Community, and It Looks Like This*, Tampa Bay, Florida

A Ten-Year-Old from Gabon Speaks

When I leave for school in the mornings I don't have any breakfast. At noon there is no lunch, in the evening I get a little supper, and that is not enough. So when I see another child eating, I watch him, and if he doesn't give me something I think I'm going to die of hunger.

<www.worldbank.org/poverty/voices>

Hunger Stories¹

each number is a human story

- Millennium Development Goal (MDG) #1: Halve the proportion of people in poverty and hunger. More than a billion people still live on the local equivalent of less than US \$1 a day, but the number of undernourished people is declining.² <<http://hdr.undp.org>>
- There is enough food today to feed all people in the world with a minimally nutritious diet, and likely will continue to be enough until the year 2020. <www.bread.org>
- Undernourishment in developing countries has, overall, decreased almost 30 percent since 1980, but about 800 million people are still malnourished. <www.fao.org>
- Underweight (malnutrition) remains the leading cause of disease and death in the world. At the same time, there are more than 1 billion adults in the world who are overweight, about half a million of whom die from obesity-related diseases every year. <www.who.org/int/en>
- More than 33 million people, including 13 million children, live in households in the United States that experience hunger or are at risk of hunger. <www.fao.org>
- The effects of undernutrition are:
 - Impaired physical development – low weight and/or height for age
 - Increased susceptibility to illness
 - Impaired mental development, leading to such things as slow learning, short attention span
 - Lethargy; low work productivity
 - An underdeveloped human potential for self and world
- Hunger could be cut in half in the United States and worldwide by 2015 for seven cents per American per day. <www.bread.org>



¹ Additional facts, updates, Web links, stories and educational materials at www.hungernomore.org.

² Millennium Development Goal targets for 2015, set by the world's leaders in September 2000.