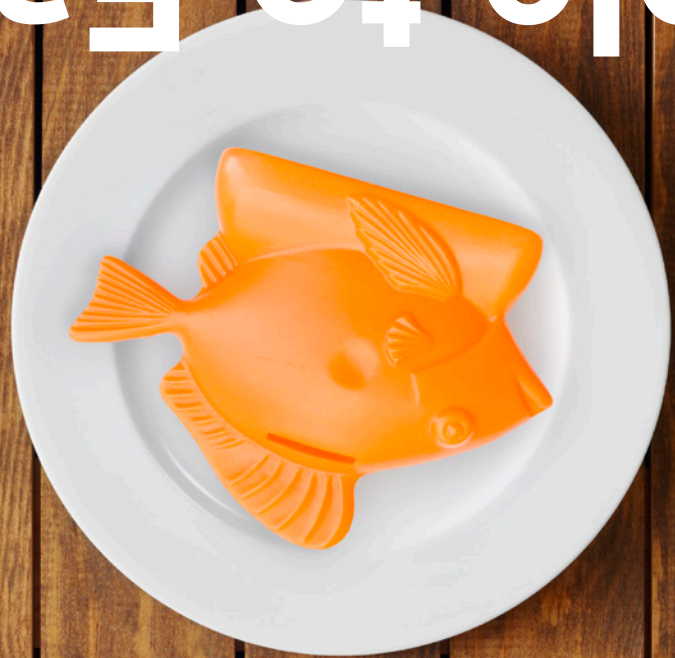


World Hunger
Campaign

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Farm to Table



35
YEARS
OF FIGHTING
WORLD HUNGER

 WorldRenew

Introduction

Food is a great gift of God that has the ability to bring us together and make us feel good. In our North American society it can sometimes be easy to lose sight of where our food comes from. In our hectic lifestyles, we forget about the farmers who produced it and our Gracious God who made all our food possible.

This year's World Hunger Campaign from World Renew is intended to help us change that by raising awareness about God's goodness from farm to table.

There are approximately 2.6 billion people in our world who make their living as small-scale farmers. That's around 40 per cent of the whole world's population! Most of these farmers cultivate less than five acres of land and live on family farms in the developing world where they grow just enough food to meet their daily needs. These farmers have much they can teach us about being aware of God's goodness and praising Him for the rain, sun, soil, seeds, and tools that make each day's food possible.

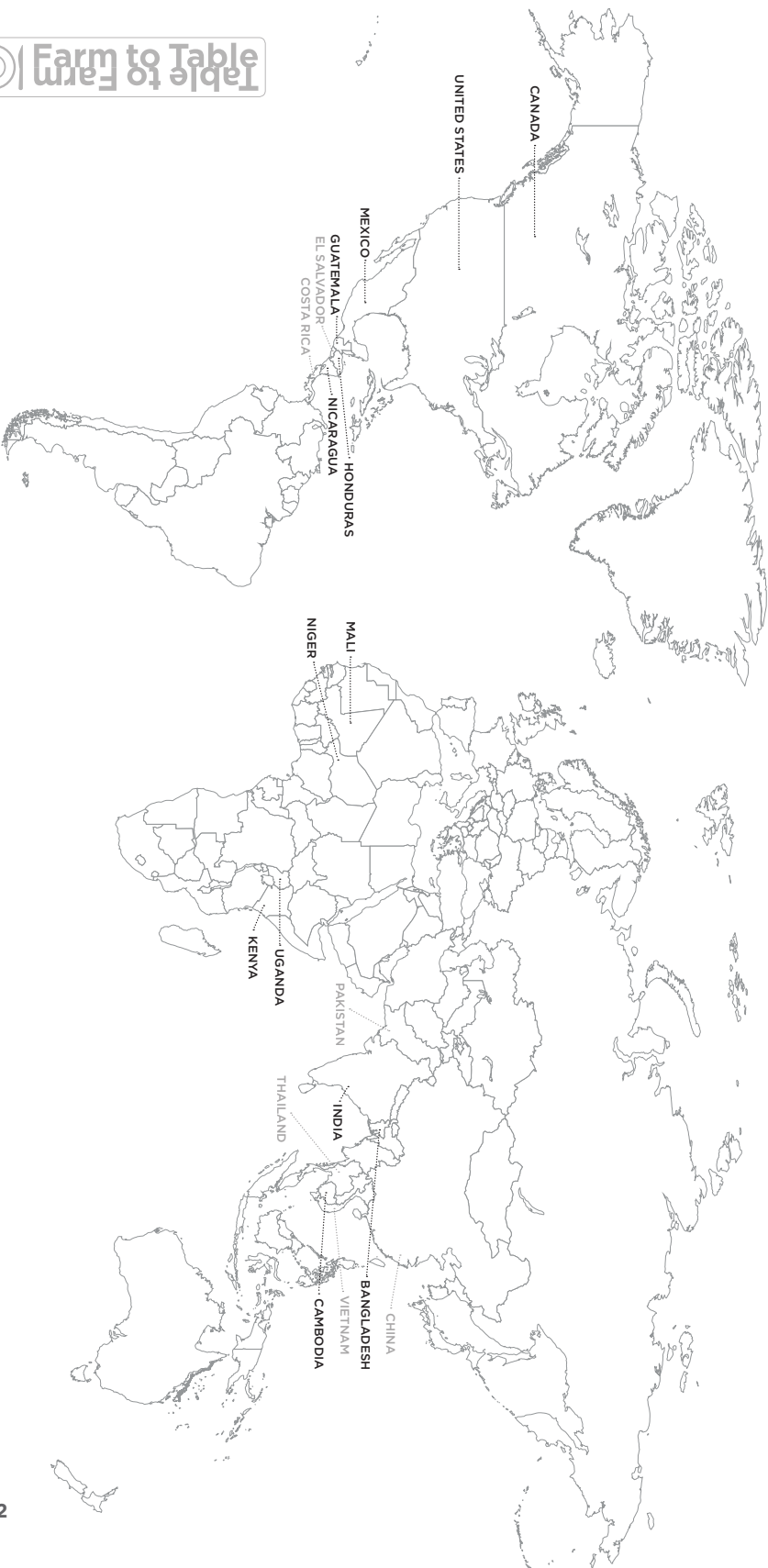
They also have needs that we can help to fill. One in eight people in our world does not have enough to eat and 70 per cent of them live in rural areas of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Near East. Every year, more and more people are at risk of hunger because they can't produce an adequate supply of food on their farms.

World Renew is working with these farmers to help them produce more diverse crops and larger harvests. This includes training in areas such as organic farming, using mulch to retain moisture, using green manures to feed the soil, simple irrigation systems for the dry season, and new techniques and seed varieties to help crops withstand harsh weather.

Over the next two weeks, stories from these farmers will come to your dinner table through this devotional booklet. We hope that they will help you and your family take time to appreciate your food and celebrate the good gifts that God has given you. We also hope that you will prayerfully consider sharing your blessings so that others will not go hungry.

These devotionals are specifically written with young families in mind. While we hope they are relevant to people of all ages, we specifically targeted them to children. Note that while the devotionals are based on the real stories of real people that World Renew is working with around the world, we did take some creative license in retelling the stories in their own words.

Unless otherwise noted, all of the content in this devotional was written by Sonya VanderVeen Feddema, 2014.



Here is a look at our whole world. When you hear a story, find the country on the map and color it in.

DAY 1

Taste and See that God is Good

**Taste and see that the LORD is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him.**

—Psalm 34:8

Hello. My name is Sonya and I live in Canada, can you find that country on your map? I imagine that my life is a lot like yours. When I woke up this morning, I ate breakfast. Later in the day, I ate lunch. And tonight, I will eat supper with my family around our table.

Did you eat any food today? Maybe you had some fruit like bananas, apples, grapes, or raisins. Maybe you had some vegetables like corn, beans, carrots, or broccoli. Or maybe you ate some bread, cereal, meat, or eggs.

When you ate your food, did you think about where it came from or how it got to your plate? I know that I sometimes forget to think about my food or properly thank God for it.

God is so good to us. Each day he gives us exactly what we need. He also provides what the world needs to grow healthy and nutritious food. He has given us the sun, rain, soil, and seeds for plants to grow. He has given us pigs, cows, chickens, and other animals for meat, milk, and eggs. He has also given us farmers who grow plants, raise animals, and make it possible for us to have food to eat.

During the next few weeks, we will be hearing stories from farmers around the world and learning from them how God has helped them to grow food. I hope that as you hear the stories, you will realize how awesome God is and how greatly he has blessed you. I also hope you will be challenged to not only thank God every day for the good gifts he has given, but to also think about some people in the world who don't have as much to eat as we do.

At church, you may have received an orange Peter Fish™ bank. This bank is meant to remind us of how Jesus once multiplied bread and fish to feed 5,000 hungry people. If you didn't receive a Peter Fish™ bank, you can use a recycled can or other piggy bank to save your coins over the course of this campaign. As you put your coins into this bank each day, pray that God will multiply your money to feed hungry people all over the world.

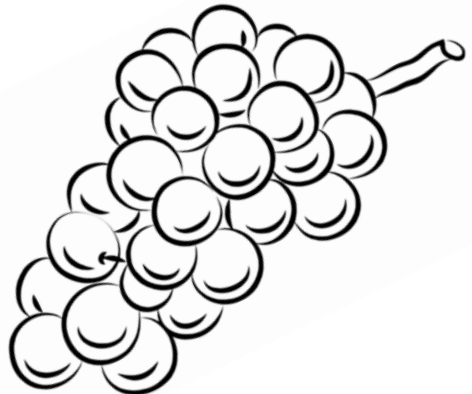
PRAYER

The bread is on our table. Bless those who have no bread. And give us grace in sharing this bounty 'round us spread. Amen.



PETER FISH™ GIVING SUGGESTION

Think about all the times you ate food today — breakfast, lunch, supper, and snacks. Put 25 cents into your Peter Fish™ for each meal and snack.



DAY 2

Thank God for Seeds!

Then God said, “Let all the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

—Genesis 1:11-12

Hello. My name is Yan and I live in a country called Niger in Africa. Can you find it on the map?

In my country as in many places around the world, farmers grow food for their families on tiny plots of land. We don’t have supermarkets or big grocery stores to go to buy our food, so we need to grow it all ourselves. I think that’s why I’m so amazed by seeds.

Have you ever held a seed in your hand and thought about how incredible it was? Each seed is so tiny and yet within each small seed is everything that is needed to grow a whole plant or tree.

In Niger, we use seeds to grow a plant called millet. It is a type of grain that we eat at almost every meal. Recently, World Renew — the organization that uses the money you put in your Peter Fish™ bank — taught me something new to do with my millet seeds to help them grow better. They said to give the seeds a bath.

I listened to what they said and soaked my seeds in water for eight hours the day before I planted them. Then I dried them off and planted them in my field. I did this on half of my field and planted regular seeds (that hadn’t had a bath) on the other half. After only 11 days, I already saw the difference.

The plants that grew from the soaked seeds were taller, greener and healthier than those that had not been soaked. At the end of the growing season, I had 48 bundles of millet from the soaked seeds and only 23 bundles from the others. Now I will soak all my seeds before I plant them and will teach my neighbors to do that too.

Did you know that you are also like a seed? You might be small, but God has already placed inside of you everything you need to grow and “produce fruit” like kindness, goodness, and generosity. As you think about seeds today, think about ways that you can bear fruit for God.

PRAYER

Thank you, God, for rain and sun, and all the plants that grow. Thank you for our daily food, and friends who love us so. Amen.



PETER FISH™ GIVING SUGGESTION

Did you know that rice is a type of seed? Take one tablespoon of uncooked rice and count the grains. Put 5 cents in your Peter Fish™ for each one. Then praise God that something so small can grow into a big plant. Ask God to show you how you can bear fruit for him.



DAY 3

Thank God for Rain!

Sing to the LORD with grateful praise; make music to our God on the harp. He covers the sky with clouds; He supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills. He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call.

—Psalm 147:7-9

Hello. My name is Oumar. I am a farmer who lives in Mali, another country in Africa. Can you find it on your map?

In Mali, rain falls only during three months — July, August, and September. We call it the rainy season. It is a fun time of year. The weather is cooler and the land gets very green as plants begin to grow. It is a time when we are very grateful to God who gives us rain. It is also a busy time because farmers like me use the rainy season as a time to plant and grow our crops.

During the other nine months of the year, we get very little or no rain at all. During those months, the soil becomes cracked, hard, and dry. Unless we can afford to own a well, we don't have enough water to plant new crops and the plants already on the fields begin to wither.

I used to worry when the rainy season ended early and my plants didn't get enough rain. My plants would wilt in the hot sun. Sometimes they died. That meant I harvested less grain and my family went hungry.

But through local churches, World Renew has taught the farmers in my area how to save and store the water that fills the river during the rainy season. They showed us how to trap the rain water by making a dam using sandbags and plastic in the river bed. It's as if we've made a large bowl for the rain to fall into.

Later, when the rains are over and the earth is dry once again, we can scoop water out of the large "bowl" to water the plants in our kitchen gardens and fields. Sometimes this even means we can grow a second crop of food during the dry season. Now I am happy to watch my plants thrive and grow!

Did you realize that people and plants can't live without water? It is one of God's gifts to his children. In the Bible, Jesus said that he is Living Water for all who believe in him. Just like the rains refresh the dry soil in Mali and make everything grow, so Jesus refreshes us with his love. When we are scared or sad, we can pray to God and he will give us everything we need. As you play, or go to school, or spend time with your family today, thank God for the gift of water and for the way he refreshes you when you need it.

PRAYER

Dear God of love, your gift of rain makes all things green, refreshed again. When raindrops fall, our spirits dance, and to you, Lord, we give our thanks! In Jesus name, amen.



PETER FISH™ GIVING SUGGESTION

Where do you get your water from? Put 25 cents in your Peter Fish™ bank for every tap or other source of water in your home.

DAY 4

Thank God for the Sun!

Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise Him in the heights above... Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you shining stars...Let them praise the name of the LORD, for at His command they were created

—Psalm 148:1, 3, 5

Hello. My name is Grace. I live in Uganda, a country in Africa where the sun shines much of the time. Look for it on your map.

I am a farmer and a mother of five children. My husband died, so my children depend on me to feed them. Each day I work hard to grow enough food for my family. When my children have enough to eat, I am filled with thanksgiving to God.

As a farmer, I know that the sun is very important. When plants don't get enough sun, or if they get too much, they don't grow well and can even die.

Recently, World Renew and my local church showed me new ways to help my plants get more sunlight. I used to farm using the methods I learned from my parents and grandparents. One of the things I did was carry a pouch of seed as I walked through my field and scatter handfuls of seed on the ground in order to plant them. By scattering a lot of seed, it helped to make sure that at least some of them would grow.

World Renew suggested that I try planting a new kind of seed that was stronger and more likely to grow in Uganda. They also taught me to plant the seeds in rows and space them out from each other. This would help each seed be far enough from other plants that they could get a lot of sunlight. It also made it easier for me to tend to my fields and make sure that no weeds would grow and choke out my plants.

I was amazed at what happened! When I did things the old way, I only got about 25 kilograms of beans. This year, I planted fewer seeds but my crop was so much larger — 42 kilograms! How happy I am to be able to feed my children!

I thank God for good seeds and the new ways of growing crops that I learned from World Renew. But I also thank him for the sun that helps plants to grow. Without it, nothing can live.

Did you know that the Bible gives us a picture of Jesus as the rising sun who came to us from heaven (Luke 1:78\NIV)? Because of his light in our lives, we grow up to be children of God. So, we can be thankful for the sun that shines on the earth each day, and for Jesus who warms our lives with his love.

PRAYER

Dear God, you made the sunshine bright to help plants grow with glowing light. We thank you for the warmth you give so we and all the plants can live. In Jesus' name, amen.



PETER FISH™ GIVING SUGGESTION

Did you see any sunshine today? If so, count the hours of sunlight you had. To figure it out, go to www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/sunrise.html. Put 10 cents in your Peter Fish™ for each hour of sunlight you enjoyed.



DAY 5

Thank God for Soil and Worms!

Blessed are those whose help is in the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God. He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea and everything in them — He remains faithful forever. He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

—Psalm 146:5-7a

Hello. My name is Dulal. I live in Bangladesh, a country in Asia near India and China.

In the past, I worked for other people so that I could earn enough money to buy food for my family. I dreamed of one day being a farmer on my own land, but even though I owned land I struggled to grow enough food for my family. I had to find other work in order to buy food, which meant that I didn't have much time to farm my land.

Then something exciting happened! I started meeting with a group of men from my village. One of World Renew's partners in Bangladesh taught us new ways to do farming, including how to produce something called "vermi-compost." That's just a long word to talk about worms.

Worms can do amazing things with old vegetable peels and scraps that we would otherwise think was garbage. When these scraps are fed to worms, they can turn it into nutrient-rich soil for plants and gardens. This can be very important to farmers like me.

I decided to give the worms a try. I bought some red worms and learned how to take care of them so that they could do their job of creating excellent compost to help my plants grow.

Here's what I've noticed. When I put the soil that my worms made onto some of my plants, those plants grew quickly and became a deeper color of green.

I was amazed and decided to try using the vermi-compost on more of my vegetable plants. When I did, several things happened. The red worms helped to soften the soil, which changed in color. The plants remained greener for a longer time. And the vegetables grew to an incredible size!

Soil is an amazing gift from God. Did you know that soil needs to be taken care of just like you do? You need to be fed to stay alive. Soil also needs to be fed with vermin-compost, manure, or other kinds of compost or fertilizer if it is to remain healthy.

I'm learning to become a farmer who cares about God's gift of soil by feeding it what it needs.

Did you know that the Bible sometimes compares our hearts to soil? When our hearts are open to Jesus and the way he wants us to live, they are like good soil where healthy "plants" like joy, generosity, and love can grow. Ask God to help you have an open heart to his will today.

PRAYER

Dear God, bless farmers as they toil with worms and compost-enriching soil. May land produce the food they need, so all your children can be well fed. In Jesus' name, amen.



PETER FISH™ GIVING SUGGESTION

The red worm has many names. Its Latin name is *Eisenia fetida*, but it is also known as a brandling worm, panfish worm, trout worm, tiger worm, red wiggler worm, and red californian earth worm. Put 25 cents in your Peter Fish™ for each name. Look online or at your library to find out more about the amazing way God has designed red worms to enrich the soil.

WEEKEND ACTIVITY #1

Farm to Table

Food is a gift from God. He is so good to us. Each day he gives us exactly what we need. When you eat your food, do you think about where it came from or how it got to your plate?

This weekend, celebrate God's good gift of food. Think about the farmers who grew it and the countries they live in by doing some of the activities listed below.

- **Go on a Country-Hunt:** Visit a supermarket near you with your parents to discover where in the world our food is grown. Read labels and store signs, and make a list of all the countries that you discover. Pray with your family for farmers in those countries.
- **Cook an International Meal:** Ask your parents to help you cook a meal using some of the food you discovered from different countries while shopping. To find excellent international recipes, we suggest you and your parents check out **More-With-Less Cookbook** and **Living More with Less** (Doris Janzen Longacre) **Simply in Season** (Mary Beth Lind and Cathleen Hockman-Wert) and **International Cuisine** (Christian Reformed World Missions). Do you have a friend, or grandparent, or elderly person you would like to invite to share the meal with your family? Invite them to join you!
- **Plan a Week of Healthy Meals:** God has given us a variety of foods. When we eat a balanced diet of vegetables, grains, fruits, nuts, meat, dairy, and eggs, our bodies grow strong and we have energy. With your parents, plan a week of healthy meals and go grocery shopping. Include a bag of groceries to donate to a local food bank.
- **Visit a Farmers' Market:** Do you know what kinds of food are grown near your home? Walk through a farmers' market and make a list of all the kinds of food you see. Ask the farmers if they grew all the food themselves or if they are selling some food from places farther away?
- **Plant Seeds:** You can grow your own food. Ask your parents to help you buy some seeds, like herbs and beans, to grow inside your home. Plant them in soil in a clear cup or glass bottle. Enjoy watching them germinate and grow.



DAY 6

Thank God for Fruit Trees!

Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.

—Jeremiah 17:7-8

Hello. My name is Magdalene. I'm younger than the other farmers you've met so far. I'm 12 years old and I'm in grade four. I live in a village in Kenya, a country in Africa.

Are you surprised that I am a farmer at such a young age? A lot of my neighbors are, too. Here is my story.

Several months ago, World Renew and a church in my village started to meet to talk about how we could make our lives better. My parents were too busy with work to be able to go to the meetings, but I was curious. When I looked around, I realized that my family was one of the poorest in the village. I felt sad about that. I wanted my parents and my younger brothers and sisters to have a better life.

When World Renew sent an agriculture worker to my village to teach the adults about farming, I tagged along. There weren't many other children there. In fact, I think that the teacher thought I was the child of one of the adult students, but I wasn't.

I listened closely to what was taught. I learned about how important it is to eat a variety of fruits and vegetables to stay healthy. I also learned new ways to grow these healthy foods even on just a little bit of land.

After each class, I went home and put my learning to work. Eventually, I was able to plant fruit trees and grow oranges, mangos, and paw paws (papayas). I wanted to grow these foods so that my family wouldn't have to go hungry. My younger brothers and sisters need a good amount of wholesome food if they are going to grow up to be strong and healthy.

I love farm work because I know that the work I do will make a difference for my family. I dream of becoming an agriculturist when I grow up. Then I can teach good farming methods and help other people become farmers, too.

I thank God for fruit trees! I also want to be a person whose life shows God's good fruit — love, joy, peace, faithfulness, and gentleness (Galatians 5:22-23). Do you?

PRAYER

Peaches, apples, plums, pears, oranges, mangos, and papaya — God of rich variety, thank you for many fruit trees! In Jesus' name, amen.



PETER FISH™ GIVING SUGGESTION

How many types of fruit did Magdalene grow? Add that number to the different types of fruit in your house. Put 25 cents in your Peter Fish™ bank for each one.

DAY 7

Thank God for Cows!

And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

—Genesis 1:24-25

Hello! Our names are Yun and Neum. We are a married couple who own a small farm in Cambodia, a country close to Vietnam and Thailand. Check out your map to find it.

We are working hard so that we will be able to send our children to school. Would you believe that the gift of a cow we received from World Renew is making that possible? Are you wondering what cows and education have to do with each other?

We got our cow from a cow bank. That's not like a bank in Canada or the United States where people deposit or take out their money. Instead, the cow bank is like a bunch of neighbors sharing with each other until we all have enough food and money to meet our needs.

Money for our cow bank came from someone in North America who gave World Renew some money through their gift catalog at Christmas. Our community used this money to buy some baby cows, called calves. These were given to some farmers who agreed to raise a calf and then pay back the cow bank once their cow is grown. They either pay back their loan with their cow's first baby, or with the amount of money that a calf is worth. Then new calves can be given to more farmers so that everyone's life is better.

Cows are very important for farmers in Cambodia. We use cows to plow the fields, pull oxcarts, and give us milk. When the cow has babies, we can also sell these calves to make money.

We were very grateful to God when we received our calf from the cow bank. We built a fence for our yard to keep the cow in. We also spent a lot of time going out to gather grass for our cow to eat. She has grown very well and has already had three baby calves. From the sale of the milk and the calves we were able to pay back our loan and send our oldest daughter to school.

Do you understand now what cows and education have to do with each other?

In the Bible, God promised that He would take care of all of our needs. He has done that for our family by giving us a cow through World Renew. How has God taken care of you?

PRAYER

Dear God, for farmers who care for their cows, we thank you. For cows and calves, we thank you. For milk to drink, we thank you. For all your good gifts, we thank you. In Jesus' name, amen.



PETER FISH™ GIVING SUGGESTION

In Genesis 41:1-32, read about Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, who had a dream about cows. How many cows did he see? Put 10 cents in your Peter Fish™ bank for each one.

DAY 8

Thank God for Fish!

God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures. . . .” So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds. . . . And God saw that it was good.

—Genesis 1:20a-21

Hello. My name is Sowkot. I am a farmer who lives in Bangladesh, a country in Asia. Can you find it on your map?

I used to think that the only place that farmers could grow food was on land. On my own farm, I grow tomatoes and radishes in a kitchen garden and rice in my field. Recently I learned something really new and exciting! Farmers can also grow food in the water. Can you guess what I’m talking about? Here’s a hint: what swims in water? If you said fish, you’re right!

Not long ago, World Renew sent an agriculture worker to my village to teach farmers about fish. When we grow rice, we grow it on fields that are flooded with water. The agriculture worker explained to us that we can use these same flooded fields to also grow fish. The fish swim in the water and live among the rice plants. Then, when it comes time to harvest the rice we can also catch the fish. This means we can grow rice and raise fish at the same time so that we have twice as much food.

I was one of the 11 farmers in my village that trained with the agriculture worker and then decided to try raising fish on my field. I bought some small fish and placed them in my flooded rice paddies.

Those fish have grown and had babies. Now when I go to my rice fields, I can see lots of

fish swimming between the plants. I thank God for His good gift of fish and for new ways of providing food for my family.

The fish in my field remind me of a story in the Bible. The disciples had fished all night and caught nothing. Jesus told them to go out into the deep water and let down their nets. A miracle happened! They caught so many fish that their nets began to break. They had to call their partners to come and help them bring the fish to shore (Luke 5:4-7). Our God is so generous to His children!

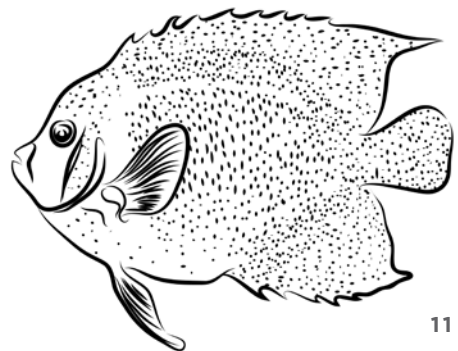
PRAYER

Dear God, for shiny fish and rice in water, which feed the children, sons and daughters, that feed the parents and make them strong, our hearts are filled with thankful songs! Amen.



PETER FISH™ GIVING SUGGESTION

The Bible tells several stories about fish. One of the stories is in Matthew 14:13-21 and another is John 21:1-14. How many fish are mentioned in each story? Add the numbers. If each fish was equal to 1 cent, how much money would that add up to? Put that amount into your Peter Fish™ bank.



DAY 9

Thank God for New Farmers!

He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in Him.

—Psalm 40:3

Hello. My name is Mayra. I am a mother of three children. I live in Nicaragua, a country in Central America. Can you find it on your map between Honduras and Costa Rica?

A while ago, World Renew held a meeting in my community to talk to us about starting a Farmer Field School — a school where students learn how to farm on a piece of land and then to use that learning on their own farms.

In my country, men are usually chosen as leaders and women mostly stay at home to take care of the children. But at that meeting, eight people volunteered to be leaders at the Farmer Field School - and all of them were women! I was one of them.

Most of us had never done any farming. But that didn't stop us from wanting to learn how! In fact, all eight of us were excited to learn new ways to better provide for our children. We didn't have to wait for men to help us: we would do it on our own.

One of the women volunteered to let us use some of her land for the Farmer Field School. We met there regularly to listen to lessons from an agriculture worker and then put those lessons into practice on the land. It was hard work, but we also had fun. We learned to plant squash, passion fruit, and velvet beans. Then we went home to try it out on our own gardens.

Because we were spending more time at the Farmer Field School and in clearing and planting our own fields, we taught

our children to help out with some of the housework. Our sons and daughters learned to cook and do the ironing. Everyone was proud of being able to help the family in their own way.

Before I went to the Farmer Field School, I couldn't have told you how to grow a citrus tree. I would never have dreamed of being a farmer. There have been other organizations that have come to my community and distributed plants and seeds, but I never knew what to do with them. This project gave me the opportunity to learn and become a successful woman farmer.

Someday, after all of this hard work has been completed, I'm going to sit outside and eat fruit and chat with my children! I thank God for this new opportunity.

PRAYER

You bless us, God, with dreams and hopes. We dream of a world where all are fed, where all receive their daily bread. We hope for a world where all is good, and all receive their daily food. In Jesus' name, amen.



PETER FISH™ GIVING SUGGESTION

God blessed Mayra with something new in her life and her children helped her out by doing chores at home. Make a list of all the chores that you can help with in your home this week. Put 10 cents in your Peter Fish™ bank for each one.

DAY 10

Thank God for Enriching Farms!

Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

—2 Corinthians 9:10

Hello. My name is Pasqual. I am the father of nine children. My family lives in a country called Guatemala. Can you find it on your map? It is near Honduras and El Salvador.

Fourteen years ago, World Renew sent people to my village to teach us new farming methods. Before they came, we had poor harvests. Guatemala has a lot of mountains and it is hard work to grow crops on the steep mountainsides. Sometimes heavy rains caused mud slides and we'd lose our whole crop. Even in good years, I couldn't grow enough food to feed my family although I worked very hard. I sometimes had to leave home to find work at a far-away city and send the money home for my wife and children. I didn't like being away from them.

That's why I was so excited when World Renew came. Through my local church, World Renew taught me and my neighbors some new ways to grow more food. We learned how to make compost from leftovers from stalks and leaves to feed our soil.

We also learned how to make our land into terraces. That means that we built ridges or steps along the slope of our farm. That way when the heavy rains came, all the soil wouldn't run off. Planting trees is another way to keep that from happening.

World Renew also taught us to use some plastic sheets to build greenhouses for crops like tomatoes. That helps make our growing season longer. And we learned to build raised barns for our sheep and animals.

This protects them from wolves and makes it easier to collect the manure to use as fertilizer on the fields.

Today, 14 years after World Renew left my village, I still remember what they taught me. All around my farm, there are trees growing. These are the trees that World Renew helped me plant many years ago. Whenever I cut one down for firewood, I replace it with a new tree seedling so that we will continue to have trees for firewood in the future.

I also carefully prepare my gardens with compost and manure before I plant corn, tomatoes, carrots and other vegetables. My harvests are so good that I don't have to leave my family to find work anymore.

I thank God for the changes that have happened in my family and our village. I know that God is the one who sent World Renew to us and He is responsible for the good things I see around me. What can you thank God for?

PRAYER

God of corn and mushrooms, too; God of farmers and harvests; we offer you our hearts — make them true; harvest a crop of love for you. In Jesus' name, amen.



PETER FISH™ GIVING SUGGESTION

Pasqual grows lots of different types of vegetables including corn, carrots and tomatoes. How many vegetables do you have in your house? Put 25 cents in your Peter Fish™ bank for each kind.

WEEKEND ACTIVITY #2

Farms and Farmers are Gifts from God!

Farms are a gift from God. And farmers, who supply our food through God's good creation, are also gifts from Him. In many places in the world, farmers have small plots of land on which they grow their food and raise animals. They feed their families from the food they produce. Many times they have only enough for their own families and have no extra food to sell. Other farmers live on larger farms. They produce more than they and their families can eat, so they sell the extra. That food eventually arrives in stores and markets, and on your plate.

- **Imagine what it would be like to own a small farm:** Pretend that you are a farmer. Look at the yard around your house. Make a map of a farm for your yard either by drawing it on paper or by going outside and measuring out plots with a tape measure. If you live in an apartment or condominium, go to a park and pretend that you are going to make it into a farm. You can include different things on your map such as rice paddies, fruit trees, a kitchen garden, buildings for animals, a hen house, or any of the other things you've read about these past two weeks in these stories.

- **Visit a farm:** Is there a farm in your area that welcomes visitors? Is there a farmer in your community who would welcome you to visit his or her farm? Ask your parents to help you find out and then schedule a visit.
- **Pick your own vegetables or fruit:** One way to learn about farms and farmers is to pick your own vegetables or fruit from an orchard or farm. Look for a pick-your-own farm near you and go as a family. If fruits and vegetables aren't in season for picking now, ask your parents if you can do so next summer.
- **Plan a garden:** If you could have a garden, what would you grow in it? Make a list of all the seeds you'd like to plant. Then, think about actually planting some of them. If you don't have a yard or garden, you could start a garden container.



DAY 11

Thank God for a Variety of Food!

He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for people to cultivate— bringing forth food from the earth.

—Psalm 104:14

Hello. My name is Dibi. I am the mother of two boys. I am also a farmer. My family lives in India, a country in South Asia near Bangladesh and Pakistan. Look at your map to find it.

The people in my village used to say that I was a poor farmer and that my family didn't have enough money to buy what we needed. I also felt ashamed because sometimes my boys would get sick and I didn't know why.

I own a small plot of land that my parents gave to me when I got married. I have always grown a crop of rice on this land. Rice is something that we eat at almost every meal. Because I didn't have a lot of money, I could only grow rice, and my family wasn't often able to eat vegetables or meat.

Then World Renew started a farmers' club in my village. I joined and learned something interesting. I learned how important it is to eat a variety of foods, especially fruits and vegetables. Eating only rice might be why my boys and I were sometimes sick. I also learned ways that I could grow a variety of healthy foods on the land I already owned.

I started by making a kitchen garden near my house. This was a small garden, but I was able to grow some vegetables for my family to eat. I also planted several fruit trees. Next, I started to raise pigs. The pigs provided meat for my family and I could also use the pig manure as fertilizer on my kitchen garden.

All of this was several years ago. Today, I have four pigs, several fruit-bearing trees, and a garden that grows enough to feed my family with some leftover to sell at the market. Now we are not as poor as we used to be!

My family is also richer in another way. We are richer because we are eating a balanced diet from our crops and livestock. In the Bible, God instructs us to be rich in good deeds, generous, and willing to share (1 Timothy 6:18). Because I am grateful to God for what he has done for me, I give some of my vegetable seeds to an older lady in my village who wants to try kitchen gardening as well. Can you think of something you can do to make someone else's life better too?

PRAYER

For different kinds of fruit, different kinds of grain, different kinds of veggies, we praise God's name! For different kinds of animals, for different kinds of nuts, for different kinds of eggs and cheese, God, thank you so much! In Jesus' name, amen.



PETER FISH™ GIVING SUGGESTION

God blessed Dibi by helping her learn new ways to grow a variety of healthy foods. Dibi "paid it forward" by doing something nice for a neighbor. Think of something that you can do for a classmate, neighbor, or someone at your church. Then put \$1 in your Peter Fish™ bank.

DAY 12

Thank God for Hardworking, Curious Farmers!

I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

—Psalm 27:13-14

Hello. My name is Juan. I live in Mexico, just south of the United States. Can you find my country on your map?

I have been a farmer all my life, but the way I farm now is much different from the way I used to farm. In the past, I farmed the way that my parents and grandparents taught me. I burned my fields to get rid of weeds before I planted my crop and I only planted beans and corn.

Every year, my fields produced less and less. I didn't know why. I decided to buy chemical fertilizers to put on my fields. It was expensive, but I wanted my plants to do better. Unfortunately, that didn't always happen. Because no one showed me how to use the chemicals, I sometimes used too much and the crops died. Sometimes I breathed in the chemicals, and I got sick. I also noticed that the more years that I used the chemicals, the less healthy my soil was.

When World Renew sent an agriculture worker to my village, he asked the farmers if we would like to learn to care for the soil the way God wants us to. I was curious and that made me eager to learn.

The agriculture worker taught me to stop burning my fields and to instead plow the leftover stalks and leaves from last year's crop into the soil. This would provide nitrogen to the soil which would feed my

plants. I also learned to use fewer chemicals, and to change the types of plants that I grew each year.

All of these things are helping the soil on my farm become healthier. Healthy soil helps plants grow bigger and produce more food.

Often as I'm working on my farm, I think about a psalm in the Bible that says that the earth and everything in it belong to God (Psalm 24:1). He wants us to treat all his gifts with love and respect. That's what I'm trying to do now on my farm.

How can you care for God's earth?

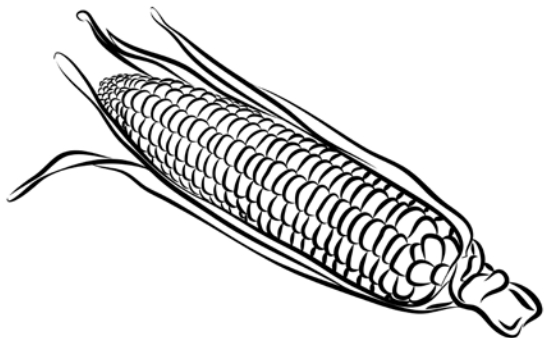
PRAYER

God, the earth is yours and so are we; open our eyes so we can see ways that we can show Your care for land, and water, plants, and air. In Jesus' name, amen.



PETER FISH™ GIVING SUGGESTION

One way that we can care for God's earth is to reduce the amount of garbage we create. Put 50 cents in your Peter Fish™ bank for each recycling box and compost bucket your family owns.



DAY 13

Thank God for Generous Farmers!

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

—2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Hello. My name is Irene. I live in Honduras. Do you see my country in Latin America, by El Salvador and Guatemala, on your map?

I am not a farmer, but I work with many farmers in my job with World Renew. I would like to tell you a bit about the farmers in a village in Honduras that is called Piedra de Agua. This is one of the newest communities where World Renew is working in Honduras, and it has already improved a lot.

The people of Piedra de Agua are really excited to work together to make their lives better. They started by pooling their savings together so that they could give loans to each other. They use the loans to invest in their farms, buy new tools, or start raising animals. These loans made a big difference and helped farmers increase the amount of money they could earn.

World Renew also taught the farmers some new ways to farm. The farmers put their skills to practice right away. They had barely had four training sessions, and they were already harvesting a crop of cucumbers from their community garden. They sold these cucumbers, and do you know what they did with the money? They built a church.

The old church in Piedra de Agua was very small and uncomfortable. When the weather was warm, people had to meet outside under a tree because it was too hot to be in the

church. Using money from the community garden, the farmers built a tall, spacious church with stucco walls that keeps the heat out. It is big enough that World Renew can use the building for training sessions and invite people from six of the neighboring communities to join. Isn't that great?

The farmers are also growing herbs for a community medicine cabinet. Herbs are plants that can be used to heal people in many different ways. When farmers donate herbs to the community medicine cabinet, families can come and get medicine when they need it.

Jesus told a story about a rich fool who wanted to tear down his barns and build bigger barns so he could store his grain, then sit back and take it easy. The rich fool didn't care about his community or want to share with them the gifts God had given him (Luke 12:13-21). God was not pleased. He doesn't want us to hoard what He has given us but to share generously with others.

That's what the farmers in Piedra de Agua are doing. How about you?

PRAYER

Dear God, we want to share and care and give so poor people are fed and have enough food to live. In Jesus' name, amen.



PETER FISH™ GIVING SUGGESTION

Count the money in your piggy bank and think about what you can give to someone in need. Then put that amount in your Peter Fish™ bank.

DAY 14

Thank God for Growing Projects!

Bless all his skills, Lord, and be pleased with the work of his hands.

—Deuteronomy 33:11a

Hello. My name is Kevin, and I'm a farmer in the United States. Can you find it on your map?

My farm is larger than the farms of the people you've read about so far in this devotional. We use big tractors, combines, and other equipment to grow corn, beans, and grain on about 2,000 acres of land.

Do you know how large an acre is? If you have ever seen a soccer field or tennis court, that might help you. Each acre is about the same size as one soccer field or 16 tennis courts. So, my farm is really big — as big as 2,000 soccer fields or 32,000 tennis courts!

Like the crops grown on smaller farms in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, my crops need soil, rain, sunshine, compost, and fertilizer to grow. Also, like the farmers there, I need tools to get my work done. I am so grateful to God for providing me with these things so that I can grow food to feed my family and many other people.

Farmers in the United States and Canada are very blessed. We also have an opportunity to share these blessings with others. One way that farmers in my community have been doing that is through a growing project.

A growing project is something that farmers and others in a community work on together. One farmer donates a piece of land, and others donate equipment. In our community, we also ask local businesses to donate seeds and fertilizer to the project. Then we work together to grow a crop on that field. When the crop is ready, we harvest it, sell it and donate the money to World Renew.

By working together we are able to raise thousands of dollars each year to help farmers around the world. And we're not alone. Many farmers across the United States and Canada support World Renew through community growing projects.

I'm grateful that God made me a farmer, and I'm happy to be able to use my farming skills to help others. God has given each of us skills or talents. What can you do to help others?

PRAYER

Dear God, use my skills and give me the will to care, share and give. In Jesus' name, amen.



PETER FISH™ GIVING SUGGESTION

Talk together as a family about the skills and talents God has given to each of you. In what ways can you use them to care for hungry people? Put 25 cents in your Peter Fish™ bank for each way you can help. Then choose one way and act on it.



DAY 15

God Bless Farmers!

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.

—Numbers 6:24-26

Hello. My name is Sonya. I'm glad to meet you again after the opportunity we have had to get to know farmers from different parts of the world through this devotional. I learned so much from each of them. I hope you did, too.

- Dulal from Bangladesh, and Yun and Neum from Cambodia showed me how difficult their work can be. Their story made me aware of some of the problems they have had to overcome.
- I am amazed at the ways in which Yan from Niger, Oumar from Mali, and Grace from Uganda took the things World Renew taught them and went on to improve their lives.
- Magdalene from Kenya showed me that children can be farmers, too.
- Sowkot from Bangladesh, Mayra from Nicaragua, Pasqual from Guatemala, and Dibi from India impressed me with their curiosity and willingness to learn new farming methods.
- Juan from Mexico made it clear that we need to take care of God's good creation.
- Kevin from the United States and the farmers in Piedra de Agua, Honduras, showed me how farmers and other people can work together to please God and feed a hungry world.

I also learned about vermi-compost, terracing, inter-fishing, soaking seeds, cow banks, and making a "bowl" in the riverbed to trap and store water. Farmers know and do so much! They can teach us so many

things about the wonder of God's world and how to care for it.

We are so blessed to have farmers in our world who grow food for us to eat. I think that whenever I eat a fruit, vegetable, or egg, or when I eat meat or drink milk, I will try to remember the farmers who make this food available to me and I will thank God for them. Will you?

Please also pray that God will continue to bless farmers all over the world through World Renew.

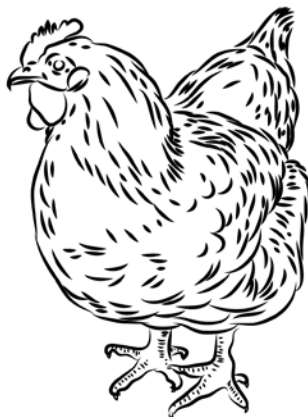
PRAYER

Dear God, farms are big and farms are small. Each is a gift. You made them all! Thank you! In Jesus' name, amen.



PETER FISH™ GIVING SUGGESTION

How many farmers have you met in this devotional? Put 25 cents in your Peter Fish™ bank for each one.



Farm to Table Word Search

In the last two weeks you've heard stories about farmers from all over the world and learned about the some of the words listed here. Find the following words in the puzzle:

TERRACES

INTERFISH

MILLET

WORMS

COWS

FOOD

EARTH

CUCUMBERS

TREES

FARMER

RICE

MANGOS

MILK

GARDEN

SOIL

HERBS

VERMICOMPOST

SEEDS

RAIN

SUNSHINE

FIELD

GRAIN

TOOLS

ORANGES

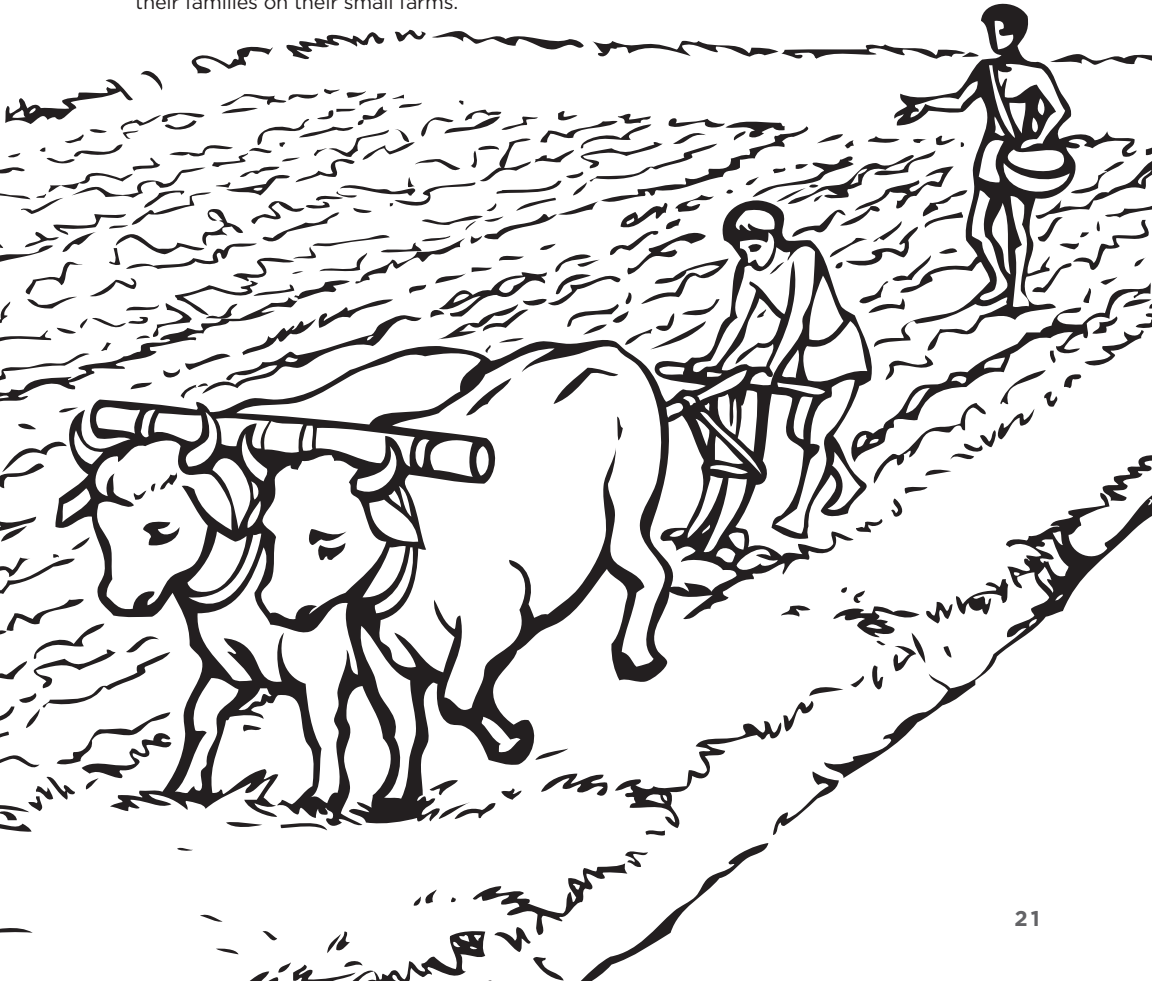


WEEKEND ACTIVITY #3

Be a Blessing to Farmers!

Farmers are a blessing to us because they grow food for their families and for others. Did you know that you can be a blessing to farmers, just as they are to you? Here are a few suggestions.

- **Color the picture:** Color the picture of a farmer on this page. Once you've finished, tear it out and hang it up to remind you to pray for farmers, especially those who are struggling to grow enough good to feed their families on their small farms.
- **Word search:** Do the word search in this booklet. When you look for the words, remember what you learned about small farmers around the world.
- **Bring your Peter Fish™ bank to church:** On World Hunger Sunday, return your Peter Fish™ bank to church so that the offering money you gave will go to World Renew. Thank you for being generous!



World Renew has a new app for your mobile device that can help you change some of your lifestyle habits and fight world hunger at the same time. Visit worldrenew.net/feedyourfish for more information.



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