


YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Leader Guide

You are not alone

// Disaster Response Sunday





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THANK YOU FOR JOINING WORLD RENEW IN DRS SUNDAY 2020.


Each year, faith communities throughout Canada and the United States draw together to support hurting families and communities still experiencing devastation in the aftermath of hurricanes and other natural disasters. And each year, World Renew Disaster Response Services (DRS) feels deeply moved by your physical and spiritual reminder that none of us are ever asked to walk alone.

This year, as the time draws near to once again give, we turn our attention to the storm survivors of Hurricane Michael. Part of the critical work World Renew has offered to this community is Needs Assessment in the aftermath of the storm—giving local aid organizations a strategic path forward for helping the maximum amount of people according to their most pressing needs. This year, we give you a glimpse into that part of the healing story.

In this Leader's Guide you will find:

- A detailed action plan to ensure your DRS Sunday is a success
- Prepared bulletin announcements to be used the week before, the week of, and the week after DRS Sunday
- A litany to be spoken during your order of service
- Additional opportunities for involvement with DRS

As you share the work of World Renew with your church, we hope you feel encouraged to connect with the larger Body of Christ and the work of God's kingdom through the world. And again, for all of the ways you join World Renew in pursuing that work, thank you.



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ACTION PLAN FOR ORGANIZERS

Thank you for leading your church in gathering a collection for DRS Sunday this year. Below, you will find the schedule of everything you need to do in the week leading up to and the week after the collection.

ONE WEEK BEFORE

- Print bulletin announcement #1 and publish as a social media post.
- Ensure the DRS Poster is added to the church bulletin board or volunteer area.
- Add the DRS Sunday slide to the slide deck.
- Make verbal announcement in church that DRS Sunday is next week.

DRS SUNDAY

- Print bulletin announcement #2.
- Add the DRS Sunday slide to the slide deck.
- Consider weaving the DRS Litany into the order of service.
- Play the “You Are Not Alone” video and hold offering for DRS during your collection.
- Publish the social media posts as a reminder to give.

1 WEEK AFTER

- Forward last week’s collection to World Renew.
- Print bulletin announcement #3 and publish as a social media post.



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PREPARED BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

ONE WEEK BEFORE

Next week, consider joining our church to give a gift to the work of World Renew in responding to disasters like Hurricane Michael. Thanks to World Renew, communities impacted by such storms have the support required to respond to needs after the storm, create a plan of repair, and rebuild together. When we give to this work, we remind beloved children of God that they never walk alone.

DRS SUNDAY

Today, we are taking a collection to support the work of World Renew in responding to natural disasters in Canada and the US. Did you know this work not only includes repairs but also early damage assessment so local organizations can meet the most pressing needs in a strategic and holistic way? When members of our church give and go to assist in disaster response work, we remind storm survivors of God's unyielding love and faithful promise: they are never alone. Join us in giving.

WEEK AFTER

Praise God that we never walk alone. Last week, our church partnered with World Renew to bring hope to the survivors of disasters like Hurricane Michael. Thank you. Together, we raised [\$XX amount] to come alongside suffering communities and help rebuild. Your part in that story makes a lifetime of difference to families recovering from the storms. Want to help more? Visit worldrenew.net/disasterresponseservices to learn about volunteer opportunities.

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LITANY FOR DRS SUNDAY

READER 1: Gentle God who shepherds our hearts, you provide for and comfort us.
(Psalm 23)

READER 2: Though storms rage and darkness can feel overwhelming, no power or force can threaten you. (Psalm 23)

PEOPLE: When we face loss, fear, lack, or hopelessness, we remember that no height or depth can separate us from your love. (Romans 8)

READER 1: You lead us to quiet waters. You restore us. You guide us towards righteousness. (Psalm 23)

READER 2: What is broken you bind. What is afflicted, you speak to with hope. You see every need, and you promise to make all things new. (Isaiah 61 and 43)

PEOPLE: Today, as we remember those currently suffering from dark storms, we ask for courage and compassion to join in your healing work. Give us eyes to see as you see. Give us hearts that yield to love. Give us hands quick to hold and quick to comfort.

In our darkest moments, you have reached out to remind us we are never alone. Today, we say thank you and reach to extend the same love.

**YOU
ARE
ALONE**

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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no text or other markings on the paper.

You are not alone.

Visit **worldrenew.net/resources** to download all additional resources including offering and litany slides, a poster, and the "You are Not Alone" offering video.

Thank you for joining us to participate in 2020 DRS Sunday.



There's more than one way to share *love* after the storm.

On DRS Sunday, we share hope with storm survivors. But you can also volunteer your time to bring that hope. Repair homes this spring or summer by registering your church, youth group, family, or self to help renew hope for disaster communities.

World Renew's one- to three-week home-repair opportunities meet needs for hurricane and wildfire survivors. If you'd like to learn more about the part you could play in helping hurting communities heal and rebuild, visit worldrenew.net/disasterresponseservices.



[worldrenew.net/](http://worldrenew.net/DRSsunday)
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