

Changing
the story

World Hunger
Campaign

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL



BREAKING BARRIERS TO
END HUNGER



WorldRenew™

LIVING JUSTICE • LOVING MERCY • SERVING CHRIST

Follow the World Hunger campaign on social media    

worldrenew.net/worldhunger

WEEKEND ACTIVITY # 1

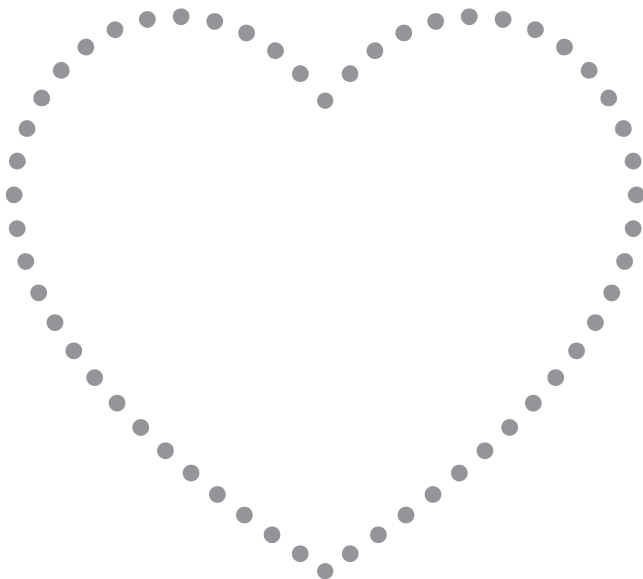
God's Love Breaks Barriers to End Hunger

In the following days, you'll learn about how God has changed the stories of people in the world with the help of World Renew. You'll meet courageous and brave people who have taken steps to break barriers to end hunger in their homes and communities.

Why not make a poster so that you can remember to pray for them daily? Here's how you can do it. Ask your parents to buy a white poster board and a red poster board. Cut out 13 hearts from the red poster board. Each day after you read one of the devotions

from Day 2 through Day 14, write on one of the heart-shaped cut outs the name(s) of the person\people whose lives have been changed. Glue it to the white poster board. Put the poster board in a prominent place in your kitchen so that, when you share your family meal and read the devotions, you can continue to remember the people in prayer each day.

Soon, you'll have a collage of hearts, reminding you of God's love at work through World Renew in these people's lives.



DAY 1

Changing the Story: Breaking Barriers to End Hunger

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. (PHILIPPIANS 4:19)

Have you ever become stuck in muck? Have you been unable to climb a wall or cross a rushing river? Have you ever searched for vegetables in a weed-filled field?

Muck, walls, water, and weeds — all can be barriers to keep you from getting where you want to go and doing what you want to do.

Now, imagine that your parents or another adult helped you walk through the muck, climb the wall, cross the creek, and find the vegetables. That would change your experience, wouldn't it?

Long ago, God made a perfect world. No barriers existed in the Garden of Eden. But Adam and Eve sinned. Their sin built a barrier between God and them.

Was it an impossible barrier to get over, under, or through? Who could help them?

God did! His love destroyed that barrier. God sent Jesus into the world to be our Saviour. Through Jesus' riches, God meets all people's needs and is making all things new.

Today, people still face barriers to health and happiness. Maybe you're struggling to understand math, or you're sad because your dog died, or you feel lonely because your friend moved away.

In many countries, children and their families face other kinds of barriers such as poverty and hunger. These barriers make it hard for them to be healthy, receive an education, and be filled with hope for the future.

During the next few weeks, we'll learn about how people's stories are changing as they work with World Renew to break barriers to end hunger. They are learning ways to keep their soil healthy, grow enough food to eat and sell, earn enough money to send their children to school, and obtain ownership of their land. What's more, as they do this hard work to end hunger, they experience God's love and joy in new ways!

At your church, you may have received a Peter Fish bank. You can use it to save your money to help others. If you didn't receive a fish bank, you can decorate a recycled can or other container to save your gift-money. Thanks for sharing and caring!

PRAYER

Dear God, no barrier is too great for you! You can end poverty and hunger, too. We praise you! In Jesus' name, amen.



GIVING SUGGESTION

There are many kinds of barriers. A locked door is one. How many doors in your home can be locked? Find these doors that lock (you may want a parent or family member to help you — and make sure you don't accidentally lock someone in or out!). Put 25 cents into your bank for each door that locks. Then talk to a parent or family member about ways in which God has helped you break barriers and find joy.

DAY 2

A Path Through the Sea

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this:
to look after orphans and widows in their distress and
to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. (JAMES 1:27)

Have you ever been happy about something, but then suddenly become afraid? Maybe you were playing in a park, but unexpectedly you heard a clap of thunder and were scared. Maybe you were playing hide-and-seek, but all of a sudden someone jumped out from behind you and frightened you. Or maybe you were enjoying learning how to ride a bike, when you lost control and fell. Sometimes happiness can quickly turn to fear!

When Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, they were joyful. Finally, Pharaoh had let them go!

But their joy turned to terror when they came to the Red Sea and realized that Pharaoh's army was chasing them. Their fear made them blind to God's power to save and break down barriers. They began to complain to Moses.

Moses answered, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today." (Exodus 14:13a).

The Lord delivered the people! He caused a wind to blow which drove a path through the sea and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, two walls held in place by God's hand.

In Mozambique, there was a time of happiness when people had enough to eat. But happiness turned to fear when there was no longer enough food for everyone. People became afraid that they would die if they didn't get food soon. Mrs. Aiyona is a widow who felt that way. She didn't have enough food to eat. She wasn't strong enough to

farm a field of crops. But World Renew helped Mrs. Aiyona by giving her the food she needed to survive.

Mrs. Aiyona knows that God can break down barriers to end hunger. Her fear has turned to joy and thanksgiving. She saw how God used World Renew to help make "a path through the sea" for her and gave her the support and care she needed to move forward with greater hope.

PRAYER

Dear God, you formed Red Sea water-walls, making a path straight through! Nothing is too hard for You. You hear the widow's prayer and always care. How great You are! In Jesus' name, amen.



GIVING SUGGESTION

Count the different kinds of fruit and vegetables you have in your fridge. Put 25 cents into your bank for each one. Talk about the many ways God has provided for you.

DAY 3

The Walls Came Tumbling Down

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (GENESIS 1:27)

Walls are often built to keep some people in and others out. Some walls are good because they protect from danger. Other walls hurt people because they keep them out so they can't enjoy the good blessings that God provides.

When Joshua and the Israelites came to Jericho, they saw that it was surrounded by thick, high walls. But walls like that weren't and aren't a problem for our God! God gave Joshua instructions about how the Israelites were to march around the city for seven days. On the seventh day, God showed His power — the walls came tumbling down!

Today, girls in many countries are being kept outside by a wall. It's not like Jericho's walls. It's a wall that's keeping girls out of school — a wall that shouts, "Girls aren't worthy of an education!"

In Tanzania, most girls in farming communities don't go to school because people believe it's a waste of money. Some girls only finish a few grades. Also, many girls are forced to marry when they are very young and to have children.

Magreth Kimoga didn't finish grade school. She became pregnant and was forced to leave home. She started a life with the father of her child. God blessed Magreth with five children. She dreamed that her children would have an education. But she didn't have money to pay school fees.

Magreth prayed to God. God answered her prayers when World Renew began to work with a group in her community who taught women

how to set up their own businesses. Magreth joined a tailoring class. She saved enough to buy a sewing machine, then opened a tailoring shop. And she reached her goal! She's able to provide for her children and give them a gift she never had — an education!

PRAYER

Dear God, You created both boys and girls. Let all children prosper in your wonderful world! In Jesus' name, amen.



GIVING SUGGESTION

How many girls are in your class at school or any other group that you belong to? Put 10 cents into your bank for each one. Talk about the opportunities that girls and boys you know have to learn, grow, and serve God.

DAY 4

Forgetting, Then Remembering

When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. (DEUTERONOMY 6:10-12)

Did you ever forget to do something? Maybe you forgot to feed your goldfish or bring your lunch to school. Did you ever forget something more important, like who your mom or dad, or other caregiver is? I'm guessing that you haven't.

When God led his people Israel out of slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land, He commanded them not to forget Him and that He is the Giver of all gifts.

Each day as God gives us all we need, we might think that we deserve these gifts. We might forget to thank God and to care about people who are poor.

The best medicine for forgetting is remembering — remembering to share with others in need, to treat people fairly, and to pray that God will give all people enough to eat. Remembering is one way to end hunger.

World Renew helps us to do this kind of remembering by sharing stories of people whose lives have been changed. Here's one.

In a village in Bangladesh, people grew mostly rice. They didn't understand how different kinds of food can help to make people healthier.

Anarkoli and her husband are poor farmers who grew only rice. When Anarkoli joined a women's group led by World Renew, she learned how to grow different kinds of healthy food. She understood that growing other crops besides rice could help to build stronger

bodies. Anarkoli shared what she had learned with her husband.

They worked hard in their field and kitchen garden. At harvest time, they were surprised to see how much food they had grown.

Now Anarkoli and her family eat vegetables regularly. They are getting healthier!

PRAYER

Dear God, Help us to remember Your goodness! Fill us with thanks and gladness! All people need Your care. Help us to share. In Jesus' name, amen.



GIVING SUGGESTION

Read Deuteronomy 6:10-12 at the beginning of this devotional. What good gifts did God give His people? Put 25 cents into your bank for each one.

DAY 5

No Fences!

“When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the Lord your God.” (LEVITICUS 23:22)

Moms or dads, or other adults often tell you to do something. Maybe you’ve been told to brush your teeth or wash your hands. Or maybe you’ve been told to be kind and stand up for someone who’s being bullied.

Long ago, God gave His law to Israel. The law showed them the way God wanted them to live. If they followed His way, everyone would be taken care of.

One of God’s laws was about caring for poor people. God told farmers not to reap everything in their fields, but to leave enough behind so that poor people could harvest it. That practice was called gleaning. Gleaning was God’s way of saying, “No fences! Don’t try to keep poor people out of your field! Welcome them!”

Many years later, after a time of famine, Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, returned to Israel. God’s gleaning law made it possible for Ruth to harvest leftovers in Boaz’s field. Ruth later married Boaz. Ruth became one of Jesus’ ancestors. God’s gleaning law led to goodness and gladness!

Today, World Renew is following God’s command to welcome and help needy people. In Guatemala, Alva Luz Riviera Sandoval moved to a new village to find a good plot of land on which to plant a garden to feed her family. God heard her prayers. She found land in Chinatal. After she had lived there for awhile, her neighbor invited her to come to a World Renew program where she could learn how to grow crops.

Now, she and her daughter-in-law, Sheyla, work together in their garden. They’ve grown enough food to feed their family. They sell what they don’t need to earn money to pay for other things. They also teach their children how to grow crops and show people from their village what they have learned about farming.

Today, obeying God’s laws still leads to goodness and gladness!

PRAYER

Dear God, your laws are good for us. In you we trust. Help us to obey! We want to follow your ways. In Jesus’ name, amen.

**GIVING SUGGESTION**

Talk about ways you can use your hands to care for people. Put 10 cents into your bank for each one. Choose one of the ways you talked about and do it!

WEEKEND ACTIVITY # 2

Thanksgiving Tour

God has filled our lives with His goodness. One of His gifts to us is food. It's important that we thank Him for it. We thank God for our food when we begin and end our meals.

Here's a suggestion for another way you can thank God for your food. Why not take a thanksgiving tour of all the places that your family shops for food? Make it an outing with the entire family. While you go from store to store, or to the market, or a roadside stand, talk about God's goodness to you. Notice which countries the food came from. Talk about the people who harvested, processed, or shipped the food.

At each location, why not buy some food for your city food bank or for someone you know who is having a hard time affording food? Canned goods are great, but, if possible, also buy some fresh produce. Many food banks are trying to give their clients a healthier diet, including fresh fruit and vegetables.

When you arrive home from shopping, cook a meal together and share it, thanking God for His gift of food and for the people who worked hard so you can enjoy it. Remember to also pray for people who don't have enough food to eat.



DAY 6

Fighting Giants of Injustice

I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor
and upholds the cause of the needy. (PSALM 140:12)

Imagine that you enjoyed painting a picture or building a sand castle. Then, imagine that someone ripped up your painting or stomped on your sand castle. How would you feel? Sad? Angry? Confused?

You have these feelings because what was done to you and the things you made was wrong. It was unjust.

God loves all He has made and He commands that we treat it justly. That means we need to treat people, creatures, and all creation with love. When we do that, everyone is blessed.

When the giant Goliath made fun of God's people and of God, he was treating them unjustly. God had chosen the Israelites as His treasured people through whose family line Jesus, our Saviour, would be born.

Goliath was so mighty. Could anyone stop him?

God could! He used David, a shepherd boy, to kill Goliath. God's power broke barriers of injustice then and still does today.

In Uganda, many people don't have enough to eat. One of the reasons is that some husbands don't treat their wives in a way that God wants them to. Husbands don't help their wives to farm and provide food for their families. That's what happened to Akumu who is married to Darius.

Darius hunted animals, while Akumu worked on their farm. When Darius killed an animal, he sold most of the meat and used the money to buy alcohol. He didn't like working on the farm. Still, he made all the decisions.

Darius often hurt Akumu. Each day she faced giants of injustice. She and her family became poorer and hungrier.

God fights giants of injustice today! He breaks barriers to end hunger. God used World Renew to teach Akumu that when husbands and wives work together, crops can be planted and harvested for their family. Akumu shared what she learned with Darius. Slowly, he changed. Now Darius and Akumu work together and grow enough food to feed their family!

PRAYER

Dear God, You love all You have made. Come to Your people's aid! When they suffer wrong, save them from injustice and fill their lives with a new song! In Jesus' name, amen.



GIVING SUGGESTION

Read 1 Samuel 17. How many stones did David choose from the stream?

Put 25 cents into your bank for each one. Talk about God's power at work in David's life and in yours.

DAY 7

Food Supplied in God's Ways

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: 6-7)

God gives food to you and your family. Your parents or another adult probably buy food at a farmers' market, grocery store, roadside fruit and vegetable stand, or grow it in their own garden. No matter where you get your food, it's a gift from God.

The amazing thing is that God isn't limited to our ways of doing things. He doesn't have to shop at a grocery store or harvest a garden. He can give people food and break barriers to end hunger in whatever ways He chooses to.

When wicked King Ahab wanted to kill the prophet Elijah, God told him to hide in a ravine. Elijah didn't have to worry about what he would eat or drink. God promised to supply water from a brook and send ravens with meat and bread to feed him. And God was true to His word.

God still provides food for people today. One way He does that is by changing people's thinking about how they farm and which kinds of crops they grow. That's how God worked in Por Ner's life.

Por Ner lives with his family in the country of Laos. He used to raise only rice crops and opium to earn money to pay for his family's needs. Taking care of the rice crops was very hard work and growing opium is against the law. So, Por Ner wanted to grow something else and be a good example for others in his village.

World Renew chose Por Ner and others to learn how to grow cardamom, which is used as a spice. Por Ner has

had many successful harvests and has earned a good income. He's been able to purchase a pipe to bring water to his new fishpond. He's also planning to raise ducks and pigs, and to plant fruit trees.

Now almost every family in Por Ner's village has followed his example and planted cardamom!

PRAYER

Dear God, In whatever way you provide food, we know it's a gift from You! In Jesus' name, amen.



GIVING SUGGESTION

Count the places where your family gets food. Put 25 cents into your bank for each one. Think of ways you can share food with needy people in your community.

DAY 8

Helping Babies Jump Hurdles

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. (LUKE 2:4-7)

Have you held a baby? Was the baby able to prepare food to eat? Could the baby earn money to buy groceries? Of course not! That would be like asking a baby to jump over hurdles, like athletes do in sporting events.

Babies depend on adults to care for them.

God sent Jesus into the world as a baby. Jesus needed Mary and Joseph to feed, clothe, and protect Him. Their love and care gave Jesus a good head start in life. Step by step, He grew up. He became our Savior!

Today, every baby in the world matters to God. Each one needs help getting over hurdles, no matter if their parents are rich or poor.

In Malawi, World Renew is changing babies' stories, including the story of one-year-old Mercy Lemosi. In her village, volunteer mothers trained by World Renew care for other mothers and their babies. They visit mothers to make sure their babies are getting enough food and proper care. They also teach them how to grow different kinds of food so the whole family will have enough to eat.

Mercy started losing weight because she was sick and wasn't receiving enough food. When a volunteer mother visited Mercy's parents, she talked to them about the need to go to the clinic to check Mercy's growth and to

immunize her against diseases. She also encouraged them to participate in a cooking club to learn how to make nutritious meals. The parents listened to the volunteer mother. After Mercy's visit to the clinic, she began to improve. Her parents are thankful for the volunteer mother's help and advice!

PRAYER

Dear God, Thank You for caring for all — big and strong, weak and small! In Jesus' name, amen.



GIVING SUGGESTION

How many babies do you and your family know? Put 25 cents into your bank for each one. Talk about ways in which God took care of you when you were a baby.

DAY 9

Take Off the Blindfold

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (LUKE 4:18-19)

Children sometimes play a game called blind man's bluff. The person who is "It" is blindfolded and needs to follow the sound of the other players' voices in order to tag them. The blindfold is a barrier that makes it difficult for the person who is "It" to catch the others.

The blindfold used in the game is a piece of fabric you can touch and see.

There are other kinds of blindfolds that you can't see and touch, but they are real, too.

Jesus healed many people. One day, He saw a man who had been born blind. The disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" The Jews at that time thought that disabilities were a punishment for sin.

Jesus' answer showed that wasn't true: "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him." (John 9:1-5)

Today, some people still believe that disabilities are caused by people's sin. This blindfolds them to the truth that God loves all people and has a plan for each person's life. This blindfold — this way of thinking — is a barrier to ending hunger.

In Bangladesh, World Renew is helping people remove this blindfold. Raton and Shamoli Biswas's son, Sokhesh, has a disability. At first, they believed that his disability was caused by their sin. That's what people in their village told them.

When Shamoli joined a group led by World Renew, she understood that Sokhesh's disability wasn't caused by their sin, it's everyone's responsibility to include disabled persons in society, and children with disabilities have many abilities. Afterward, Shamoli felt very happy!

World Renew also gave 80 female goats to persons with disabilities so they could earn money. Sokhesh received a female goat. The goat gave birth to two baby goats! Now Sokhesh has a way to make money to save for his future. He also has a wonderful job — caring for the goats. Now he and his family and others see his abilities!

PRAYER

Dear God, Thanks that You have a plan for every boy, girl, woman, and man. In Jesus' name, amen.



GIVING SUGGESTION

How many goats did World Renew give away to persons with disabilities? Put 5 cents into your bank for each one.

DAY 10

Pull Out the Weeds!

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. (MATTHEW 5:9)

At the beginning of these family devotions, we learned that weeds are a barrier when they take over a garden and make it difficult for vegetables and fruit to grow there. Gardeners who really want healthy and large vegetables and fruit spend time pulling out weeds so sunlight and nutrients from the soil can nourish them.

There are other kinds of weeds besides the ones that grow in gardens. You can't see these weeds. They are hidden in people's hearts. But you can see what happens when these kinds of weeds are allowed to grow and no one bothers to pull them out.

These weeds are called distrust, anger, and hatred. When no one pulls them out, they lead to fighting between people.

Jesus saw the weeds in people's hearts. He knew what they needed. He knows what we need today. We need Him. He gives people peace with God and with each other. He said that peacemakers will be blessed. They will receive God's goodness and share His gladness with others.

In India, there are groups of people who have hated each other for many years. They have different religions and different customs. They thought that was a good enough reason to hurt each other. After one group mistreated someone, the other would fight back by doing something even worse. It meant that the whole community could not work at escaping hunger and poverty because they couldn't work together.

World Renew helped the people in these communities learn about peace.

Today, these two groups of people have created a Peace Garden. They cleared a plot of land and planted potatoes, garlic, radish, tomatoes, and more. They were surprised to discover that gardening together also helped them to get to know each other.

The Peace Garden helped to pull out weeds of distrust and anger. Now, instead of fighting, the two communities have gathered a large crop of vegetables. They have also reaped a harvest of peaceful relationships!

PRAYER

Dear God, bring peace and love where weeds of hatred grow till crops of food and goodness overflow. In Jesus' name, amen.

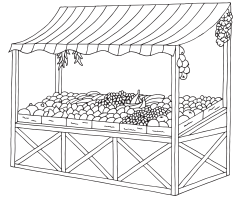
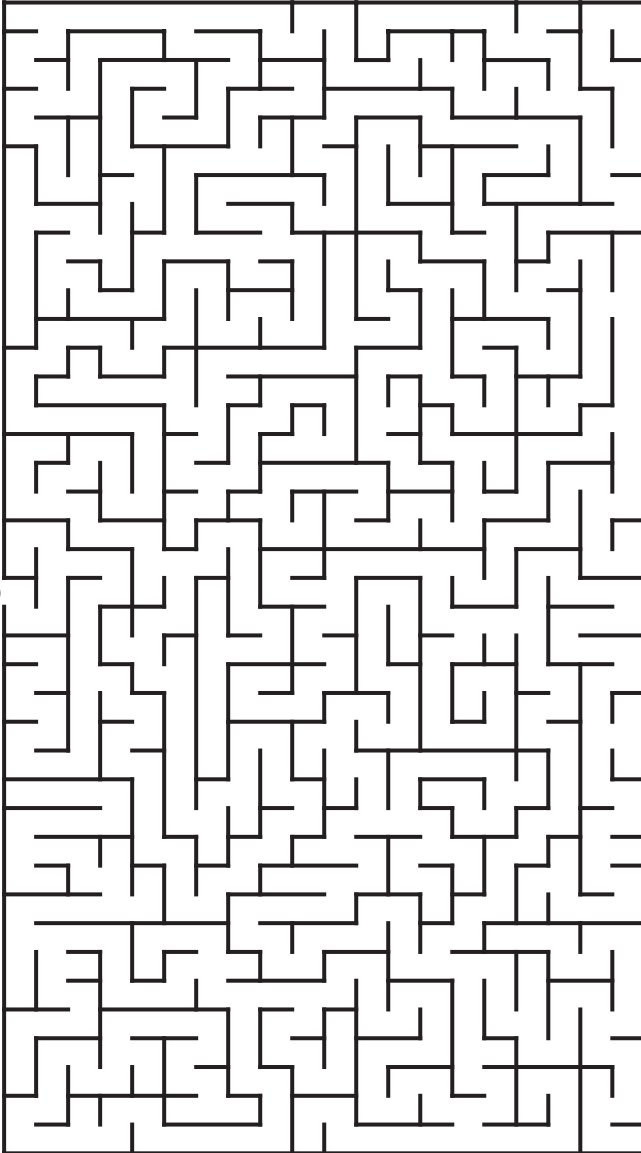
**GIVING SUGGESTION**

Read Matt. 5:1-12. How many groups of people did Jesus mention? Put 25 cents into your bank for each one. Talk about why Jesus said each group is blessed.

WEEKEND ACTIVITY # 3

Peter Fish Maze

Help Peter Fish finding a way to the produce stand.



DAY 11

Using Rope, With Love

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. (JOHN 13:34-35)

Have you ever skipped rope with your friends? Have you swung on a rope hanging from a tree or played tug of war with a heavy rope? I hope you have. Each is fun to do.

Sometimes when people talk about caring for each other, they say they are bound together with love. If you wanted to picture that in your mind, you might think of a large group of happy and smiling people standing in a circle holding on to an imaginary rope, showing that they belong together.

Jesus commanded his disciples to love each other as God loved them. When they did that, anyone, who watched them would know that they were tied to Jesus. When they served Jesus, it could mean only one thing. They would care for other people, too, and point them to God. It would be as if they were throwing a rope, a lifeline, to people to pull them into Jesus' kingdom of love and peace.

In Mozambique, World Renew trained Matias Edison Mongiaia to be a leader in his community. Matias has a disability. He has a deep concern for others in his community who have disabilities. He's a leader who wants to show Jesus' love. And he did it once by using a real rope.

Matias' neighbor has leprosy and is blind. He gets around by pulling himself along on his elbows. Matias asked the people who run his village government to construct a toilet for this man. The village leaders agreed. Each gave some supplies like bricks and wooden poles. They also helped to build the latrine and

tied a rope from inside the blind man's house to the latrine, so he could find his way back and forth.

By providing a latrine and a guiding rope, Matias made it possible for his neighbor to practice better hygiene and remain healthier. He helped to break down a barrier in the man's life.

PRAYER

Dear God, we are bound to you and to each other, too. Open our eyes to see the needs of others. Each is a sister or brother. In Jesus' name, amen.



GIVING SUGGESTION

How many bathrooms do you have in your home? Put 50 cents into your bank for each one. Talk about the different things you do to remain healthy.

DAY 12

Goodness, Groaning, and Growing

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. (GENESIS 1:31A)

Have you ever let out a groan? Maybe you hurt yourself and groaned in pain. Or someone told you a joke and you groaned because it wasn't funny. Maybe you groaned because your mom told you to do your chores and you didn't want to do them. Whatever the reason, when people groan, usually everyone around them hears it.

The Bible teaches us that when God made the world, He saw what He had made and it was very good. But everything changed when Adam and Eve sinned. Since that time, creation has been groaning as if it were in the pains of childbirth.

God cares about the groaning creation. He loved the world so much that He sent Jesus as our Savior. The world is more than just people. The world is the entire creation, the whole cosmos. God loves it all. And He is making everything new.

In Mali, Pastor Luka Dao has learned what that means for life here and now. World Renew taught him and other participants to see how God cares about the physical world today. They also learned about how they can be part of God's plan to make all things new. For example, on the last day of training, all the participants dug holes and planted 52 moringa trees.

Pastor Luka Dao now has a deep desire to care for the land and make sure that his farming practices help the soil and don't hurt it. Besides being a pastor, he plants acacia trees to earn a living. These trees provide shea butter, leaves, and honey for food. He also sells these products so that he can pay for

his children's healthcare and education. Now, he also plans to start a family market garden and grow zucchini, okra, melon, maize, and papaya.

Pastor Luka Dao's actions show that he has heard the groans of creation and has taken steps to love and care for it as God wants him and all of us to do.

PRAYER

**Dear God, all you have made is good!
Help us to take good care of your world.
In Jesus' name, amen.**



GIVING SUGGESTION

How many trees are in your yard, by your apartment building, or in a park near you? Put 25 cents into your bank for each one. Talk about ways in which trees show God's goodness to us.

DAY 13

Climbing Mountains

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. (1 JOHN 3:16)

Have you ever seen majestic mountains that seemed to touch the sky? They're amazing, aren't they?

What if you had to cross those mountains? Then they would be a barrier! But, imagine that at the base of the mountain, you discover a stairway chiselled into its side. Crossing the mountain now seems possible, doesn't it?

Jesus taught His disciples to lay down their lives for their friends. The apostle John explained what that meant: God wants us to share the good gifts He's given us with others who are in need. When we do, we show that God's love lives in us.

Maybe that still seems like a hard thing to do, like trying to climb a mountain, but we can do it because of Jesus. It's as if Jesus chiselled a stairway into the mountain and made a way for us to climb it. He laid down His life for us. We lay down our lives because of His goodness and because He gives us the strength to do so.

In Mali, Brehima is laying down his life for his community. He attended a World Renew program and learned to read. When he read the Gospel of Luke, his story changed! He met Jesus and became a believer. He has worked with World Renew staff to make sure that people in his village are able to have the rights to their land. When they get land rights, it means that the land is theirs to farm and they don't have to worry about someone taking it away so they have no place to grow food.

Because of what he learned from World Renew, Brehima was able to help

some of his relatives, too. They lived in another village and had not been included in the distribution of the rice fields. Brehima took all the proper steps to make sure that his relatives were treated in the right way and received their land rights, so they too can continue to grow food.

Years ago, Brehima might have thought helping others get land rights was an impossible mountain to climb. But God used World Renew to provide a way for Brehima to do so.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, You lay down Your life for all. Help us to hear Your call — to lay our lives down, too, for You. In Jesus' name, amen.



GIVING SUGGESTION

How many boundaries make up the place on which you live? Put 25 cents into your bank for each one.

DAY 14

Swimming Upstream

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. (PSALM 23:1-3A)

Swimming upstream against the current of a fast-flowing river is hard work for a person who isn't a strong swimmer. It can be a barrier to getting to where you want to go. Swimming downstream and letting the current carry you might be easier, but it won't be helpful if the river is flowing in a direction that you don't want to go.

Jesus met many people who felt they were swimming upstream. Their lives were difficult because they faced many barriers. Jesus, the Shepherd, cared about each one.

One day, a woman who had been bleeding for 12 years pushed through the crowd to get near Jesus. The Jews of that day believed that a person like her was unclean because of her bleeding. So, she wasn't allowed to be with people because they thought her uncleanness would make them unclean, too. Can you imagine how lonely she was?

The woman heard about Jesus' healing power. She decided to swim upstream against the current of everyone's thinking. She followed Jesus and touched His cloak. She knew that if only she touched Him, she would be healed. And Jesus healed her!

Jesus is still our Shepherd today. He still helps people swim upstream against certain ways of thinking and doing things so that they can lead healthier lives.

In Uganda, Mama Jane Wanjiko swam against the current of farming in the old ways. With the help of World Renew, she learned to farm in such a way that she was able to grow crops even when

there wasn't much rain. She spaced her plants, put mulch around them, and tilled the soil much less than before. Her neighbors didn't agree with the way she was farming. When they saw that her crops were healthier and more abundant than theirs, they wondered if it was a result of witchcraft.

Mama Jane Wanjiko didn't let her neighbors' criticism stop her. She kept on farming in the new way. She's sure that her neighbors can't stop admiring her garden. She has one goal — that soon all her neighbors will farm in the new way, too, so that everyone will have enough to eat.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, You shepherd us with Your tender care. You spread Your goodness everywhere. Thank you! In Jesus' name, amen.

**GIVING SUGGESTION**

Have you ever visited a farm? If so, put 25 cents into your bank for each one. If not, how about making plans to visit a farm near you? Talk about the ways in which farmers provide for all of us.

DAY 15

No Barriers!

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (REV. 21:1-4)

These past weeks, you've met many strong and courageous people from countries throughout the world as you've read these devotions. Each person has broken some kind of barrier to end hunger. Each one has also been a wonderful part of World Renew's story. And you are a part of World Renew's story. You have listened to the stories of how people's lives have changed and you have put money in your Peter Fish bank to share with them.

Earlier, we learned that through God's riches shown to us in Jesus, God is meeting the needs of the whole world.

Does that mean that there are no more barriers for people to overcome? Does it mean that, because you've put money into your Peter Fish bank and given it to World Renew for hungry people, nothing more needs to be done?

Of course not! There are still many people who need encouragement and help to break barriers to end hunger.

But, one day, that will change! Can you imagine a day like that? What would it be like to live in a world where there is no hunger, pain, tears, war, or barrier of any kind to keep people from being whole and well? It's hard to imagine, isn't it? But it's something to look forward to, more than any Christmas present. Actually, it will be the greatest Christmas present ever because Jesus

Christ will come back on the clouds of heaven, just as He promised. He will make everything new through His unlimited riches!

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, our hearts are filled with the hope of new birth! We wait for You to bring the new heaven and earth! In Jesus' name, amen.

**GIVING SUGGESTION**

What special Christmas presents have you received in the past? Put 25 cents into your bank for each one. Talk about what life might be like when Jesus returns and there are no more barriers.

Peter Fish Swims On

For the past 15 days, you've read about people who are breaking barriers to end hunger. And you've been putting money in your Peter Fish bank to share with them. Your gifts will be used to help people to continue to improve their lives with the help of World Renew. Please remember to return your Peter Fish bank to your church for your deacons to collect. Thanks for caring and sharing!

In the next few weeks, why not think of ways that you as a family can raise money to continue to support the work

of World Renew? Could you have a bake sale or a garage sale, and donate the proceeds to World Renew? What about asking friends to give a gift to World Renew instead of giving you a birthday or Christmas present? Or, what about joining World Renew's Free a Family Program? Visit our website, worldrenew.net/faf, to learn more details.

Whatever you decide to do, World Renew thanks God for your generosity! God is showing His love for the world through you!



DAY 10

Justice Rolls on Like a River

READ PSALM 36

In the last two weeks you've been reading stories about how God is using World Renew to break barriers to end hunger. Have you noticed that the theme of injustice repeatedly surfaces when issues of poverty and hunger are mentioned? Have you seen how practices rooted in justice help children, men, women, and communities flourish? Injustice is nothing new, of course. The prophet Amos lamented the unjust practices of God's people, Israel. Their deeds drove a wedge between themselves and God, and between themselves and others. Amos called the people away from injustice to a life of justice: "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-falling stream!"

Picture the power of a frothing river, its sheer unstoppable force! Imagine the gentle energy of a never-falling stream, its steady flowing waters persevering over rocks, and fallen logs, and other obstacles in its way.

Today, God has helped World Renew, with the support of people like you, to let justice roll on like a river in the lives of many people and to change their stories. You've met Sambath Harsh and his wife Sarom Sam, and you've seen how Sambath left behind his life of alcoholism, domestic violence, and neglect to become a partner with his wife in farming.

You've encountered Rachida who was able to learn a trade in spite of her disability and to escape a life of begging and poverty.

You've learned about Rosa Cucul Yat who was able to enhance and better her land after facing many obstacles, including the mental breakdown of her husband. And you've met others who have experienced God's grace through World Renew and seen their lives swept up into God's justice river, which will continue to roll on until Jesus Christ returns on the clouds of heaven and makes everything new.

In the days ahead, please pray that God will continue to use World Renew with your support to seek justice and break barriers to end hunger. Pray that God's glory will be revealed through their efforts and that people everywhere will see that "The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed" (Psalm 103:6).

DAY 9

Practicing Justice Means Everyone Receives Care

READ PSALM 139:13-16

Twelve days later, Safina went to Manuara's home to check up on her 7-year-old son who was caring for Mobarak. Safina learned that Manuara was working on building roads since the family didn't have enough money to buy food. Safina noticed that Mobarak had lost a substantial amount of weight. That evening she returned to the family's home to talk to Manuara. Safina explained to Manuara the dangers of weight loss for babies and the importance of exclusively breastfeeding. She insisted that Mobarak be hospitalized to receive treatment, but Manuara refused to since she didn't even have money to buy food.

As Safina Begum continued to visit the family, she was alarmed by Mobarak's deteriorating condition. She took action and approached World Renew and its partner, who had developed an emergency health fund so that their group members and people from the community like Manuara, could receive an emergency loan. Because of Safina's request, they approved a loan for Manuara with which she was able to pay Mobarak's hospital fees. Today, thanks be to God, Mobarak is healthy and flourishing because Safina and others participating in World Renew's Maternal and Child Health Program understood that practicing justice means everyone has the right to receive care.

David's lyrical prose sings of the majesty and mystery of life in his mother's

womb. There, in his vulnerability and frailty, David mattered to God. As an adult, he understood that God cared about him through every stage of his development.

The same is true today for every infant, toddler, teenager, and adult.

Each matters to God. He intends that each be allowed to flourish and grow in His good creation.

Today in Bangladesh, World

Renew's Maternal and Child Health

Program seeks to give babies and children a good nutritional start in life

so that they can flourish. Even those outside of the program have benefited

from it since World Renew staff seeks to practice justice by refusing to

exclude people in need.

Manuara Begum was one such

person. She and her husband, a day

labourer, are parents of two children. They live in a community where

World Renew's Maternal and Child

Health Program is changing many

people's stories. Though Manuara is

not a member of any of the groups

comprising this project, she wasn't

denied the services that the project

offered its members. When she was

pregnant with her younger son, a

trained traditional birth attendant

named Safina Begum visited her

regularly to give her advice and support.

Manuara gave birth to a healthy son,

who was named Mobarak.

DAY 8

Speaking Up for Justice

READ PSALM 33

God commands us to be advocates of justice. Proverbs 31:8-9 says, "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." When we seek justice, we are loving God, our neighbor, and ourselves. But how can people be advocates of justice if they think they have no rights, including the right to speak up for others?

In Senegal, World Renew's Adolescent Health and Rights Program teaches teens that they do have rights and that they can be advocates for justice.

When Khady Ndiaye joined the program, her story and that of her family and community changed. She had never attended school because her parents couldn't afford the fees, so being involved in a learning community gave her a sense of dignity. She and her peers were taught to abstain from sex before marriage and learned about HIV and AIDS, the risks of early pregnancies, sexual abuse, and female genital mutilation. Also, they were asked to think about their dreams for the future. Soon afterward, Khady became an advocate for justice. The sessions had helped her to understand that sexual abuse is a violation of human rights. When her older sister was raped, Khady shared with her family what she had learned. Their newfound knowledge gave them the courage to report the perpetrator, who is currently serving a prison sentence.

Khady was also able to stand up in her own defence when she learned about the dangers of early marriage and pregnancy. Her parents had wanted her to marry her cousin. Khady shared with her mother what she had learned and convinced her it was not in her best interest because she was too young. Then she talked to her father. He agreed, too. Her parents decided to let her postpone marriage till she is 22 years old.

Now, Khady hopes that her parents will help her to attend a vocational training school to learn sewing. She also wants to become a member of the Youth Action Group, a component of the Adolescent Health and Rights Program, to inform her peers about the risks of HIV and AIDS, sexual violence, and early pregnancy. She and her friends from the program plan to organize educational events and invite their parents, health workers, religious leaders, and youth to attend.

Khady and her parents realize that the training she received by God's grace through World Renew will be one way she can break barriers to end hunger and poverty and to have a brighter future.

DAY 7

Cooperative Hearts and Just Practices

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-15

deposited in the saving group, ensuring two things — that only those people with a vested interest in the community and its welfare may benefit from the savings group and no outsiders will be given an opportunity to take unjust advantage of the villagers because of their financial contributions.

When Rathana Chan and his wife moved to Chey Sena, they opened a grocery shop. Soon, the couple decided to expand their business, but they weren't eligible for a loan from micro-finance institutions because they had no assets.

Eventually, Rathana joined the local savings group. He received a loan to improve his business and to establish others. Now he and his wife run five small businesses. The couple is grateful that they aren't struggling on their own. Rathana said, "If I saved money at home, it wouldn't last as long, but in the savings group I can save more. I can also be part of the group who can help one another to overcome the issues that we face."

The writer of Ecclesiastes lauded the strength and comfort of cooperation and friendship when he wrote, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: if either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12b).

Throughout the biblical narrative, God's children are called to live in community. The apostle Paul urged the Corinthian Christians to live like that. He encouraged them to complete an offering they had begun for the impoverished church in Jerusalem.

Paul's desire wasn't that the Corinthian Christians become needy so that the Jerusalem Christians could be relieved. Rather, he wanted all to have enough — "At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need" (2 Corinthians 8:14).

Today in Cambodia, communities are witnessing the reality that a cord of three strands isn't easily broken. They are learning that cooperating together is one way of breaking barriers to end hunger and maintaining justice.

In the village of Chey Sena, a savings group supported by World Renew is changing people's stories. People are given the opportunity to save their money, pool it with others in their group, withdraw it when needed, or borrow with low interest from the savings group. No outside money may be

DAY 6

Just and Merciful Choices

READ LUKE 10:25-37

God is the Lord of gardens, flourishing crops, green pastures, and rain showers. And God is the Lord of slums, garbage dumps, and depleted soil. In each place and circumstance, God's children are called to give Him thanks, praise His name, and seek justice. Whether experiencing plenty or lack, they are called to make just and merciful choices that will benefit their neighbors and God's good creation.

In Jesus' parable of the good Samaritan, He portrays people who made choices that revealed their hearts. The first group was the band of robbers who beat a man and stripped him of all he owned. Mercy and justice had no place in their hearts.

Next came a priest, who passed the man. Soon after, a Levite did the same. They were more concerned about remaining ritually clean than they were about emulating God. Mercy and justice had no place in their hearts, either.

But the Samaritan was different. He chose mercy and justice. He helped the wounded man, bringing him to an inn and promising to pay for his expenses. Jesus' parable ended with a question, "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" (Luke 10:36) We know the answer. The Samaritan — the one who showed mercy and justice.

Today, in the slums of Dhaka, Bangladesh, World Renew offers an urban nutrition project to promote the nutritional health of children. One of the areas they focus on in their local

discussion groups is urban gardening. Participants are encouraged to grow vegetables in an urban setting using organic fertilizer.

Baker Miah participated in World Renew's training. In the past, he had grown tobacco to earn an income. In his group, he learned about the importance of nutrition and kitchen gardening. He realized that, unlike tobacco, kitchen gardening could provide a profitable income **source** for his family. He also realized the significant impact he could have on his community's health if he switched from growing tobacco to growing vegetables.

Baker had a choice — to think only of himself or to be a good neighbor and work for the well-being of his community. Baker chose to be merciful and just. He leased a plot of land and grew vegetables. He also encouraged members of the men's group to grow vegetables instead of tobacco. Baker succeeded in persuading some of them to do so! Now, Baker has a sense of fulfillment because he is enhancing the nutritional status of both his family and his community.

DAY 5

Integrity and the Gospel

READ PSALM 15 AND MICAH 6:1-8

Each day, she got up at 3:00 a.m., took care of her family's needs, walked three hours to work, labored all day, then

walked home exhausted.

Besides that, she and her husband

grew cardamom. After growing

cardamom for 10 years, they finally

increased their income. However,

Hurricane Mitch destroyed their crop.

Tragically, Rosa's husband experienced a mental breakdown and was unable to

work afterward.

So, when World Renew approached

Rosa to become involved in their

program, she didn't want empty words

or barren promises. She needed solid

ground on which to stand after losing

so much. She found it in the integrated

gospel World Renew staff embraced —

acting justly, loving mercy, and walking

humbly with God.

Today, Rosa grows pineapple,

banana, avocado trees, and coffee. She's

convinced that farmers like herself can

improve the land and help their families.

Now, she invites other women to follow

her example and break barriers to end

hunger. She says, "I'm motivated and

asking God to give me strength to

continue working in my terrain for the

benefit of my family."

God spoke through His prophet Micah to call Israel back to a life of fellowship with Him. God reminded them of their history so that they would know that He is God who acts righteously.

Micah spelled out further what God

required of Israel. God wasn't interested

in their sacrifices, devoid of repentance,

love, and loyalty to Him, but required

that they act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him. They were to live lives

of integrity devoted to God.

Today, God still calls His children,

individually and collectively, to live

lives of integrity — to show that the

good news of salvation isn't a gospel of

empty words and rituals, but speaks to

cairing for the poor, seeking justice for

the oppressed, and working to break

barriers to end hunger.

When we live lives of integrity,

people notice and God uses us to

change their stories.

In Guatemala, when World Renew

invited Rosa Cucul Yat, a 39-year-old

mother of four children, to learn about

enhancing her land and bettering

her crops, she agreed to participate

in trainings led by World Renew. She

noticed something about the World

Renew staff and the program itself.

She said, "The good thing is that they

share an integral gospel, not only

empty words."

Rosa has faced many hardships. As

a child, her parents were too poor to

send her to school. As an adult, she felt

sad about her lack of knowledge. Work

was scarce, but she found a job doing

laundry for families in another town.

DAY 4

God's Justice Bestows a Crown of Beauty

READ ISAIAH 61:1-3 AND LUKE 4:14-21

In our world today, injustice comes in many forms. Systemic injustice in our world—such as gender and class inequality—often reduces people to poverty and hopelessness. Such injustice can rob people of their freedom and prevents them from recognizing their inherent dignity as beloved children of God. In many communities where World Renew works, injustice is a barrier that prevents people from overcoming hunger. God's love of justice reveals His love of creation and the people He has made. His anger burns against those who would subjugate, destroy, use, and hurt men and women, boys and girls, each one bearing His image.

When Jesus read the scroll in the synagogue in Nazareth, He quoted the prophet Isaiah. He proclaimed the year of the Lord's favor in which the poor would hear the good news of God's kingdom, prisoners would be freed, blind people would receive their sight, and the oppressed would be released. They would, in Isaiah's words, receive "a crown of beauty instead of ashes" (Isaiah 61:3). God's love of justice has not dimmed! He commands us to love and seek justice, too (Isaiah 1:17).

Malawi, World Renew is seeking justice for teenage girls, driven by poverty, hunger, and desperate circumstances to become trapped in a life of transactional sex — a life that no girl would dream of having. Most of these girls are led into these desperate, demeaning circumstances because they bear the pressure and responsibility of

being the primary breadwinner for their family. They do not believe they have anywhere else to turn.

Martha* is one of the girls who has benefited from World Renew programs that help girls break free from the patterns of transactional sex. When Martha fell into the trap of transactional sex, she was selling donuts at the market and her earnings were not enough to provide for her family's needs. She knew her mother would be angry because she depended on her to bring home enough money to buy food for the family. Martha told her friend about her predicament. Her friend assured her that she had a solution, then asked a man who had promised her money for sex to sleep with Martha instead. Martha went to a house by the market where the man had sex with her and paid her the equivalent of \$1.37 USD. Martha's friend encouraged her to continue to earn additional money in this way.

When Martha learned about World Renew's program, she joined a girls' groups and talked with older mentors and peer educators. She was informed about the dangers of transactional sex and has chosen not to engage in it anymore. She hopes to return to school and learn a trade that will ensure an adequate future income.

Thank God that He is using World Renew to do justice and to bestow on girls in Malawi a crown of beauty instead of ashes.

*name withheld for security purposes

Encouragement Reaps Justice

DAY 3

ADULT DEVOTIONAL

READ EPHESIANS 3:14-21

God created all of us to be unique, but we have this in common: we cannot make it through life without encouragement. We may differ in gender, social status, age, or ethnicity, yet we all need to be to be spurred on and supported by others. God created us to go through life together and build each other up. The apostle Paul understood that the Thessalonian Christians needed encouragement, too. He knew where to look for the Source of encouragement that they needed. He prayed, "May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word" (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17).

God's encouragement is eternal. It doesn't dry up, or run out, or break down. It's evident in the world today. His encouragement is advancing justice and breaking down barriers to end hunger. Just ask 15-year-old Rachida from Niger, where half the population is under the age of 15 and many young people are not able to attend school regularly or at all. When children are held back from education, they often have very limited future job prospects and will likely live in poverty.

Even as a youngest, Rachida felt beaten down by life. As a 3-year-old, she was in a serious accident, resulting in her head and hands shaking uncontrollably. When she was 6, her parents enrolled her in school, but she wasn't able to complete the year because of her disability. When Rachida was 12, she enrolled in a sewing school because she didn't want to spend her life begging for

food. Once again, her disability kept her from succeeding. Debilitating discouragement set in. Rachida no longer wanted to live. But God sent His eternal encouragement to Rachida through her neighbor who told her about a sewing school, supported by World Renew, which provides training to students who can't afford to attend such a program and equips students with the skills to make a living.

Rachida's teachers encouraged her and prayed for her. Her fellow students accepted her as a sister in Christ. At her graduation ceremony, she said, "Today, it is a miracle for me to have received my diploma. I thank God for all my teachers and for World Renew who provided the materials for us to be able to work. God has shown that He loves me a lot. I encourage all those who are handicapped to fight to be able to work, so that they do not have to depend on begging, which is demeaning to our value as human beings."

The encouragement Rachida received with God's help through World Renew secured for her a just and dignified future!

DAY 2

Love and Justice Begin at Home

READ EPHESIANS 5

Today, Sambath is a different man. He has stopped drinking alcohol.

after joining a World Renew alcohol awareness program. He realized how alcohol was destroying his health and that of his family. In fact, he realized, his alcoholism was impoverishing his family. It was a barrier to ending the hunger that they were experiencing. Sambath felt deep shame. He knew that he had to treat his family justly. He saw that his individual choices had an impact on whether or not his family had enough to eat.

Now, Sambath works on the farm along with Sarom and their children. He also sometimes works outside the village to earn extra income for his family. One of his children has returned to school and the other has found employment. The family's story has changed!

Thanks be to God that through His presence in World Renew, peace has replaced discord, love has taken the place of disharmony, and justice prevails where once injustice reigned.

The apostle Paul cared about human relationships. He understood that, as children of God, all our relationships must reflect God's justice and love for us — "Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God" (Ephesians 5:1-2). In the rest of that chapter, Paul goes on to explain how all familial relationships are to be rooted in love and justice. In fact, love and justice begin at home.

Sambath Harsh, a 54-year-old farmer, has learned that truth. He's also discovered that breaking barriers to end hunger can depend on an individual's choices.

Sambath and his wife Sarom Sam, along with their four children, live on a farm in a remote Cambodian village. In the past, Sambath was an irresponsible husband and father because he abused alcohol. For more than 10 years, he drank daily and offered no help on the farm. Sarom took full responsibility for tilling the soil, planting, weeding, and harvesting the crops. The family depended on her alone for any extra income that the farm might earn.

Sambath also physically abused his family when he was drunk. He forced Sarom to give him money for alcohol and gambling. Sambath's unjust acts led to neglect of his family. His children could no longer go to school because Sambath had used the money for fees to buy alcohol.

We Sing of God's Love and Justice

DAY 1

ADULT DEVOTIONAL

If anyone knew how to sing to the Lord, it was the psalmist David. His psalms are filled with songs about God's love, justice, and righteous deeds. David exalted God as an active, ongoing agent of justice, proclaiming, "The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed" (Psalm 103:6). And as we do so, God will meet all our needs according to His glorious riches in you to join World Renew in singing songs of God's love and justice. We believe, as David pointed out, that God is always working to bring about His righteousness and justice, also on earth today. He's never stopped aiming for that goal and He won't until the day He makes all things new when Jesus Christ returns on the clouds of heaven.

What does that mean for us? It means that we can sing now, and tomorrow, and the next day! We can sing because God is changing people's stories by breaking bonds of injustice. As a result, He's breaking barriers to end hunger and poverty. We are people — not marked by gloom and doom! not imprisoned by cynicism or apathy! — but animated and buoyed by the good news that Jesus is Lord! Sing it out loud — our God reigns!

It also means that we are called to lovingly work for justice — to help lift the world's load, carry its wounded, feed the hungry, fight evil in all its different manifestations, care for creation, and give generously of the time, talents, and treasures God has given us. We can energetically and hopefully do these things, not in our own strength, but in

the power of the One Who gave Himself for us on the cross and rose victorious over death. No greater deed of injustice was ever perpetrated against a person, yet it reaped a harvest of love, justice, and righteousness and gives us wings to soar — to do God's work in the world. As you read this devotional, we invite you to join World Renew in singing songs of God's love and justice! Thanks for joining World Renew in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19)! Be encouraged by the stories of people in this devotional whose lives have been changed through their partnership with World Renew. Above all, praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

BREAKING BARRIERS TO END HUNGER



*Changing
the story*

**World Hunger
Campaign**
ADULT DEVOTIONAL