

Harvest 2019

Creative prayer ideas

Season for
change

Family Tree

Provide sheets of blank paper and pens or pencils for drawing. Have a Bible sitting open at 1 Kings 21.

In 1 Kings 21 we hear about how Naboth loved his vineyard and didn't want to sell it to the king. Part of the reason he loved it so much was because it had belonged to his family for generations. The vineyard was part of his heritage and reminded him of his ancestors.

Selvi's farm in India has become a safe place for women to work and make better lives for their families. Kasthuri lives on the farm with her son, Mathi. The land is their home.

Think about the women with whom you have personal relationships: mother, sisters, aunts, grandmothers, mentors, teachers, ministers. These could be biological relationships, but like Selvi and Kasthuri, many of us have close familial relationships beyond our birth families.

Take a piece of paper and draw a vine on it. Add a leaf for each woman who has shaped you. Write their names, and any characteristics you share, or things they have taught you. Give God thanks for these women and their impact on your life.

Joy of the Harvest

Provide a map, and packaging or labels from fruit and vegetables to show where it was grown.

The food many of us buy in the supermarket is grown all over the world. Look through the labels: have you eaten any of these foods today, or this week? On the map, find the countries where the food came from.

As you do, pray for the farmers all over the world who have grown your food. Pray for their working conditions and the health of their land. Pray into the compromises many of us have to make as we seek to source our food ethically within a fallen world. Read these words from V. Petchiyammal, a farmer from Akkanapuram in southern India:

'Organic farming is good for my health and the next generation. We are helping to make the community healthy.'

Season for Change - environmental justice

Provide cards with instructions for growing veg from kitchen offcuts. (Cards are available at the end of this resource.)

Food production takes a huge toll on the environment, through chemical farming methods, high-carbon transport, and waste at all stages of the process.

Lament is a way to grieve and confess through prayer. Offer a lament for the ways we damage creation and each other through the food production system.

One way to reduce your reliance on the broken food system - and cut back on waste! - is to grow your own food. Some can even be grown in a sunny window. Read the cards to learn how you can grow your own veg from kitchen offcuts.



Inclusion

Provide either a tray of soil, or individual soil pods, and vegetable seeds (carrots and peas are good options).

EcoVeg farmers grow more than vegetables – they grow the skills and confidence they need to participate in their communities and improve the lives of their families.

In places like India, where social exclusion is a reality for many, EcoVeg farming helps communities to come together through education and access to a growing economy.

Plant a seed in the tray provided. As you do, pray for the people in India who are taking part in the EcoVeg project, that they would grow strong and healthy communities and relationships through their farming.

“It’s a family, a community involvement – each person has a role.”

Alagumayil, farmer from Vadugampadi, India

Reflect on these words from Isaiah

“This is the kind of fast day I’m after:
to break the chains of injustice,
get rid of exploitation in the workplace,
free the oppressed,
cancel debts.

What I’m interested in seeing you do is:
sharing your food with the hungry,
inviting the homeless poor into your homes,
putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad,
being available to your own families.

Do this and the lights will turn on,
and your lives will turn around at once.

Your righteousness will pave your way.

The God of glory will secure your passage.

Then when you pray, God will answer.

You’ll call out for help and I’ll say, ‘Here I am.’”

Isaiah 58:6-9, The Message

Written prayers

Responsive reading - adapted from Psalm 67

God, be gracious to us and bless us
make your face shine on us

**May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.**

So that we may make your ways known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.

**May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.**

May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you guide the nations of the earth.

**May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.**

The land yields its harvest;
God, our God, blesses us.

**May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.**

May God bless us still,
so that all the ends of the earth will praise him.

**May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.**

A prayer of confession - based on Luke 20

Lord Jesus, you are the beloved Son
Sent to share in the harvest
To reveal to us God's ripe and filling love
God's bountiful provision
Lord Jesus, we confess that we often reject you,
seeking instead our own profit
Out of our short-sightedness
Lord Jesus, help us to see your face
In the farm labourer
In the food packer
In the lorry driver
And in the grocer
So that we may remember their worth, dignity and
humanity.
In your name we pray, Amen.

Creation thanksgiving and confession

God of creation, we give thanks for the earth
For the habitats it holds and the life it sustains
And for the beauty that reflects your beauty.
We confess the ways we have not respected the gift
of the earth:

deforestation, species extinction, climate change

**God of creation, move us beyond despair,
turn us towards action.**

God of creation, we give thanks for soil
For the nutrients it holds and the life it sustains
And for the provision that reflects your provision
We confess the ways we have not respected the gift
of the soil:

over-farming, fertiliser abuse, aggressive mining

**God of creation, move us beyond despair,
turn us towards action.**

God of creation, we give thanks for water
For the diversity it holds and the life it sustains
And for the restoration that reflects your restoration
We confess the ways we have not respected the gift
of water:

plastic pollution, overfishing, chemical poisoning

**God of creation, move us beyond despair,
turn us towards action.**

A Season for Change prayer

Change...
In the wind
On the ground
In our hearts
Through our action lived out in love.

God, who embraces us all, stretch our spirits to
embrace each other.

Together...
In our standing up
In our speaking out
In our demanding justice
In our prayerful living-out of the changes we call for.

God, whose plan includes us all, stretch our spirits to
embrace each other.

Where human beings are being
stigmatised,
marginalised or
oppressed,
exclusion stifling their human becoming,

God, stretch our spirits to embrace your
justice-based bias for the poor.

Christ, stretch our spirits to take our place in
your body.

Spirit, stretch our will to grasp your vision.

A season for change is now. Amen.



Veg growing cards

The Season for Change Challenge

Can you grow veg on your windowsill? These quick and simple ideas don't take much equipment or space.



Potato

Cut past-ripe potato into slices – with a couple of eyes per slice.

Plant in a small pot of soil and wait for a new potato to grow.

**Don't wait for change
- help it grow!**
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Garlic

Place a clove, pointy side up, in an egg cup, with a couple of centimetres of water in the bottom. Wait a few days for greens to sprout. Use greens to garnish salads, or transfer the sprout to soil, to grow a whole new head of garlic.

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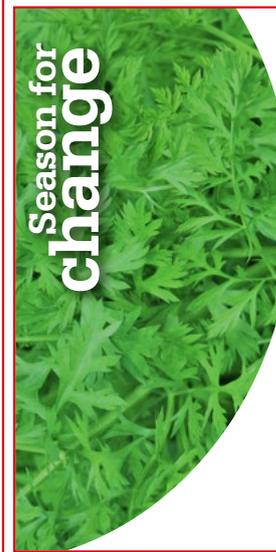


Onion

Place discarded root base on an inch of damp soil.

Remove old base when new growth is visible. Keep moist until new onion is desired size.

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Carrot greens

Soak stem ends in a dish of water. When roots appear, place on a layer of damp soil. Use greens for salad garnish and to flavour pesto.

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Celery

Leave 2-3 inches on the base when preparing. Set base in a dish of water.

When roots sprout, transfer to soil and keep moist until new stalks grow.

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Romaine lettuce

Set base of core in a dish of water.

Change water daily until roots sprout.

Transfer to soil and keep moist until new leaves grow.

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