

Harvest Appeal

God takes the small things and multiplies beyond our imaginations

Together, we can invest in communities and see lives transformed



Photo: Tom Price/Tearfund

Five loaves and two fish. This well-known Bible story is remarkable. Jesus used a gift from a small boy to feed 5,000 men and many more women and children. And still, there were leftovers.

This harvest, our Tearfund resource for your church focuses on the incredible truth that God can multiply our gifts. When we give him the small things we hold in our hands, he takes them and uses them for his glory. Isaac from South Sudan knows this first hand.

‘We used to only eat once a day, but now we eat three meals a day.’

When conflict broke out in South Sudan in 2016, Isaac had to leave everything he’d worked so hard to build up and flee with his family to a refugee camp in Uganda.

After four unhappy years, Isaac decided to return home. But the only thing he found was charred remains. Everything he owned had been burnt to the ground.

Isaac faced extreme hardship. Civil war devastated his earning potential, leaving him unable to feed his family.

Poverty is stealing hope and robbing millions of people of their potential.

But we believe in a world where everyone has the chance to thrive and experience a fuller life.



Photo: Tom Price/Tearfund



Photo: Tom Price/Tearfund

Unleashing hope through church-led poverty solutions

When your church gives to Tearfund it provides the finances for innovative Bible-based training to be delivered through local churches around the world. This training brings hope and belonging through the local church, and communities begin to use their own skills and resources to lift themselves out of poverty.

Tearfund's Transforming Communities programme brings change that is both sustainable and equipping.

As we invest in communities, we can help transform lives because God takes the small things and multiplies them beyond all we can imagine.

Isaac's story

'When I got here (South Sudan), all of my grass-thatched houses had been burnt down,' explains Isaac. 'I didn't know where to go. My only option was to go to the church. Then I was welcomed there.'

The pastor invited Isaac into his home, providing him with temporary accommodation as he joined the Transforming Communities training that Tearfund had introduced at the church.

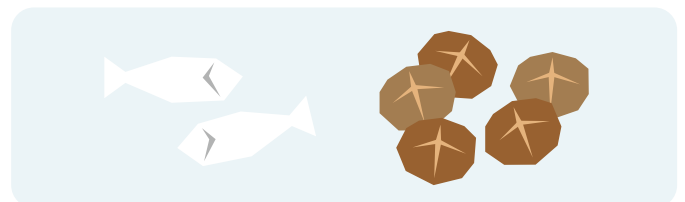
'The church gave me the courage to forget about the horrors of the past and focus on starting a new chapter,' Isaac continues.

'I learnt that God provided us with resources in creation. Then I began to discover what these resources are. I had an idea to plant trees.'

As Isaac's understanding and confidence grew, he developed additional skills and decided to grow new trees which provided more income for his family.

'We used to only eat once a day, but now we eat three meals a day. And the money I get from selling fruit helps to pay for my children to go to school.'

Just like the boy with the five loaves and two fish, Isaac offered God all he held in his hands and God multiplied it for his glory.



Partner with purpose and tackle poverty together

Isaac ends his story with a heartfelt plea. 'I'd like to encourage them (Tearfund) to provide the training to more people. **I don't want it to end with me.**'

We don't want the training to end with Isaac either. When we invest in church-led training, faith is strengthened, churches grow and communities begin to thrive as people realise their God-given potential.

We are already working with 32,000 churches in some of the poorest areas of the world, but we have an incredible vision to see 250,000 churches trained up through our Transforming Communities programme.

Your church's prayer and support can help us reach the most vulnerable.

How your church can help our global neighbours thrive

Thank you for choosing to use this harvest resource in your church. This next section outlines everything you need to plan and run your harvest service. We know every church is unique, so feel free to follow the outline exactly, or chop and change it to suit your needs.

We ask that when you choose to use it, you would prayerfully consider donating a gift to Tearfund's work in whatever way works best for your church.

Our prayer is that through this resource, your congregation will be inspired by the truth that whatever we have, God can multiply for his glory.



Social media

In the weeks leading up to your harvest service, let your congregation know that this harvest they'll be hearing about Isaac from South Sudan.

And make sure you check out the harvest recipes from Forestside Cookery School. They're perfect to invite the church to a fundraising lunch.



Web links

You can put website links up on the screen for people to look up during the service or copy them down to take home and look up later.



Welcome

To add to your usual warm welcome, you could mention that the theme of the harvest service is around how God can multiply our gifts.



Icebreaker game

An interactive, icebreaker game can be a great way to start a service, especially with children in the congregation.

Before the service, print out the five loaves and two fish cut-outs. Attach them under seats around the church. After the welcome, invite the children to search for the paper clues. As they bring them up to the front, ask the children if they know what story in the Bible these pictures represent.

Read out the Bible passage Mark **6:30-44** – Jesus feeds the five thousand.



Appeal slides

These slides will guide you through Isaac's story, providing all the background info you need on Tearfund's harvest appeal. You can show these in your service and talk through them, or allow people to read through them in their own time.



Readings

These additional readings can be used at any point during your service.

God encourages generosity in our lives. Imagine how different the story would have been if the boy hadn't shared his five loaves and two fish.

2 Corinthians 9:10

God has given each of us unique talents. We can use them to build his kingdom.

Matthew 25:14-23

Standing firm in our faith, trusting God and obeying him despite the hardships we and our global neighbours face.

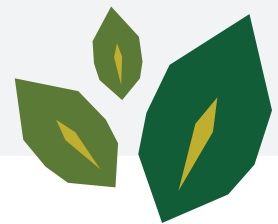
James 1:17

The power of prayer. Jesus hears each one of our prayers.

John 14:14

God can do more than all we can ask or imagine.

Ephesians 3:20-21



Video

A family-friendly short film showing how Isaac's life turned around from hardship to hope. This can be shown at any point in the service.

Sermon

We've created sermon notes focusing on the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand found in Mark 6:30-44.

Give

A gift from your church will help stop poverty from devastating lives. Five loaves and two fish – multiplied to feed over 5,000. Whatever we have, God can multiply for his glory.

£24

could equip one church leader to lead lasting transformation in their community.

£48

could help to train two Transforming Communities facilitators through Bible studies, releasing people like Isaac to overcome extreme poverty.

£160

could enable a local church to drive lasting change by meeting with the wider community so that the transformation can reach as many people as possible.

£217

could train three churches like Isaac's to help their communities identify challenges and find solutions, lifting themselves out of extreme poverty.

Prayers

Prayer is at the heart of everything we do at Tearfund. Our vision is far bigger than we alone can achieve. We believe in a loving God who hears and responds to our prayers.

Within the harvest pack, we've created a selection of prayers to help your church pray for Isaac and the work of Tearfund, equipping communities around the world through the local church.




Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to share Isaac's story with your congregation. As always, we're right here if we can help with any further information.

You can reach us by email at churches@tearfund.org

tearfund.org

Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE

☎ 020 3906 3906 ✉ info@tearfund.org    /tearfund

Registered office as above. Registered in England: 994339. A company limited by guarantee.
Registered Charity No. 265464 (England & Wales) Registered Charity No. SC037624 (Scotland)
Photo: Tom Price/Tearfund J1102-(0924)



tearfund