

# Worship Resources for World Food Day

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## Children's Sermon: Leviticus 23:22

When was the last time you had leftovers from a meal? What did you do with them? Did you save them for later? Did you give them away?

What? Why would you give away your leftovers? Well, what would you think the Bible says about leftovers?

(Read Leviticus 23:22.)

Ok, so what is this saying? Leviticus is a book of a lot of rules for the Israelites to follow as they are learning to be God's people. And here's one of those rules. Do you know what gleaning is? It is the process of picking over the field and taking what's been left behind of a harvest. You glean the leftovers. And here, we read that the Israelites were supposed to let the poor and needy go through the fields to glean, to take the leftovers. And then they won't go hungry.

Did you know that gleaning still happens? That it happens in the United States?

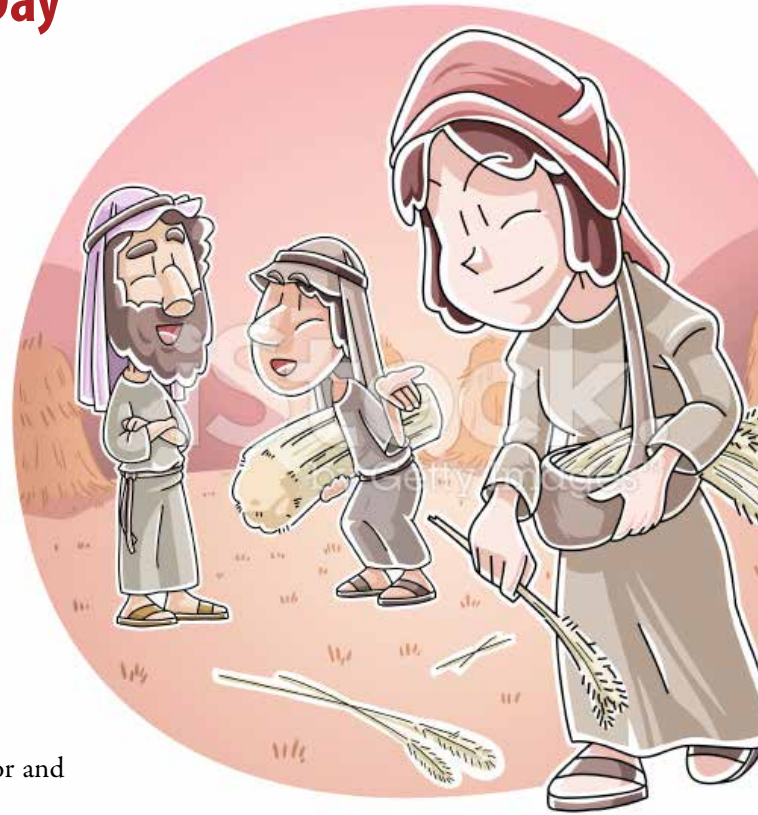
In California there are groups of people who visit the fruit trees in people's yards to pick apples, oranges, lemons, limes, pomegranates, avocados and other food from trees (with permission) to give to people who are hungry. Otherwise that food wouldn't get eaten and that would be wasteful.

Who do you think is poor and needy in your life?

I wonder if there are ways you can think about your leftovers. You probably don't want to give someone you meet who is hungry your leftovers from dinner but what other ways can you share your food with others?

Let's pray.

*God, thank you for the food that surrounds us and for asking us to care about other people. Help us feed others and love them as you have loved us. We love you. Amen.*



## A Prayer:

*Oh God we give you thanks for the hands that work the earth, planting seeds and tending the soil. We give you thanks for bodies bent over plants, pulling weeds and harvesting the food we eat.*

*We give you thanks for food from all over the world--and from right in our neighborhood--that feeds us. We give you thanks for strawberries and corn and papaya and okra and rice--God these are just some of the fruits of your land.*

*But God our hearts break whenever we remember that some people do not have enough to eat and that many of those people are farmers and farmworkers themselves.*

*God, you call us to feed the hungry and sometimes we fail miserably at this.*

*We refuse to fix broken food systems and are more concerned with getting food fast than getting food well.*

*The ministry of Jesus Christ reminds us that when we come to the table together, we build grace and community where all are welcomed and fed. Help us be like Jesus.*

*And so we pray for those who are hungry. We pray for those who are broken by the land. We pray for living wages and healthy soil and for enough.*

*Move our feet, God, that we may know that we are all connected.*

*In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.*