

World Hunger
Campaign

LEADER'S GUIDE

FISH FOR CHANGE

20
YEARS OF
PETER
FISH



WorldRenew
LIVING JUSTICE • LOVING MERCY • SERVING CHRIST

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Introduction

Welcome to the 2015-2016 World Hunger campaign from World Renew! This year we celebrate the twentieth anniversary of our orange Peter Fish banks. In honor of this celebration, this year's theme is "Fish for Change" and is rooted in **Luke 9:16-17a** *"Taking the five loaves and two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people. They all ate and were satisfied."*

After preaching all day, Jesus commands his disciples to feed the 5,000 people who have gathered. Realizing that they only have five loaves of bread and two fish among them, the disciples feel daunted by the seemingly impossible task. But God uses their offering, multiplies it through His grace and the resulting miracle provides enough for everyone.

Today, we often feel like the disciples. God has tasked us with providing for the poor and needy in our world, yet the sheer scope of global hunger overwhelms us. We wonder what we as individuals or even church congregations can do that will make a lasting difference. Fortunately, we have God on our side.

When we give of what we have — our time, our prayers, our talents and our financial gifts — God is able to bless and multiply those efforts. The resulting miracle is one where not just the poor — but the whole world — is able to eat and be satisfied!

By participating in this year's World Hunger campaign, you and your congregation will be reminded of this wonderful news.

The following pages include all the resources you need to present the World Hunger Campaign to your congregation. A children's message, song suggestions, a drama script and a sample sermon will help you plan a World Hunger worship service. Bulletin announcements, additional children's messages and deacons' hints are also included to help you promote World Hunger Sunday in the weeks leading up to your event. In addition, World Renew has Powerpoint slides and videos available to you at worldrenew.net/worldhunger

World Renew has also created complementary material that your congregation can use outside of formal worship times. There is an advocacy opportunity that you could recommend people get involved in. There are also devotional booklets for two types of audiences in your congregation.

The first half is a family devotional written with young children in mind. These devotions are intended for use with World Renew's orange Peter Fish banks and bring World Renew's ministry to life with daily stories, prayers, and activity suggestions. If you'd prefer not to use the banks, you can also make your own container using some of the stickers provided.

The second half of the devotional booklets is written for older youth and adults. It introduces people to some of the 74 times that fish are mentioned in the Bible and suggests some lessons that those stories can teach us about responding to poverty and injustice in our world.

Traditionally, World Renew's World Hunger Campaign takes place during the two or three weeks leading up to World Hunger Sunday (designated by the CRC Synod in 1979 to be the first Sunday in November). This year that would entail distribution of the materials on Sunday, October 18 and a culmination in World Hunger Sunday on November 1. However, the materials are written in such a way that they can be used at any time throughout the year.

Devotional booklets, Peter Fish banks, DVDs, bulletin inserts or bulletin covers are all available FREE OF CHARGE. To place an order call 1-800-333-8300 or visit worldrenew.net/order. You may also visit worldrenew.net/worldhunger for additional World Hunger resources that might be of value to you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact World Renew at 1-800-552-7972 (US) or 1-800-730-3490 (Canada).

Ideas for a Creative World Hunger Campaign

- 1. USE A BOAT** — Last year, Ridgewood Christian Reformed Church in Jenison, Michigan placed a boat at the front of the sanctuary. When it was time to collect the Peter Fish banks, Rev. Len Kuyvenhoven told the children NOT to bring up fish for anyone else. Instead, adults and children were asked to come forward and place their fish banks in the boat. Those who didn't participate in filling a fish bank, were encouraged to place money or checks in the boat as well. Lynn Koistra (a member of the congregation) said, "I think it might have been Ridgewood's largest collection for World Hunger!"
- 2. FILL YOUR FISH** — To kick off their World Hunger campaign last year, Maranatha Christian Reformed Church in Cambridge, Ontario placed 75 Peter fish on a table in their foyer. About nine more were placed at the front of the sanctuary for the children's message. Eight of the fish were filled with a dozen navy beans each. The other was empty. This was to illustrate that one in nine people in our world are hungry. The children were asked to shake all the Peter Fish and they could hear that one was empty. Then the empty fish was filled with beans and all of the children shook them again. They made quite a racket! This simple demonstration showed how when everyone contributes their coins to these banks, everyone can respond to hunger experienced by people in our world. People were asked to take one of the banks from the foyer table home with them. When they brought them back on World Hunger Sunday, the children shook them again . . . this time, they were filled with coins!
- 3. CREATE AN UNDERWATER SCENE** — Consider decorating your sanctuary for the duration of your World Hunger Campaign. Before your kick-off Sunday, ask someone (maybe even your youth group) to paint a large piece of butcher paper with blue water, yellow sand, and a few green sea plants. Once it is dry, deliver it to a Sunday School classroom. On kick-off Sunday, have the Sunday school children paint the bottom of one of their palms in a variety of colors. The spot nearest their wrist will be the fish face, the remainder of the palm is the fish body, and the fingers can be painted to be the fish fins. After each child has added their hand print fish to the mural, allow it to dry and use a marker to add eyes and a mouth. Then hang the banner in the sanctuary or fellowship hall for the remainder of your campaign. (See example from September 2011 at learningaswearegrowing.blogspot.com)
- 4. WHERE IN THE WORLD WILL PETER FISH TRAVEL?** — For the past twenty years, children and families have filled orange fish banks like this one with coins as part of World Renew's World Hunger campaign. This year, we'd like to celebrate Peter Fish's 20th birthday by asking you to help us with a social media campaign. Please take a photo of a Peter Fish bank in your sanctuary, on your pulpit, in your community or another creative place of your choosing. Then e-mail your photo to digital@worldrenew.net or share it on your church's Facebook page and tag World Renew. We'll be sharing Peter Fish photos from around the world on our website and facebook page (www.facebook.com/worldrenew). Thank you in advance for your participation!

Fast Facts About Hunger and Poverty

What is hunger? Why does it happen? The World Food Programme provides a few facts and statistics that might be helpful to you as you talk about World Hunger with your congregation. (*Wording is directly quoted from the World Food Programme's website: www.wfp.org*)

Ten Fast Facts About Hunger

1. Some **805 million people** in the world do not have enough food to lead a healthy and active life. That's about 1 in nine people on earth.
2. The vast majority of hungry people **live in developing countries**, where 13.5 percent of the population is undernourished.
3. Asia is the continent with the most hungry people — two thirds of the total. The percentage in southern Asia has fallen in recent years but in western Asia it has increased slightly.
4. Sub-Saharan Africa is the region with the highest prevalence (percentage of population) of hunger. One person in four there is undernourished.
5. Poor nutrition causes **nearly half (45 percent) of deaths** in children under five — 3.1 million children each year.
6. One out of six children — roughly 100 million — in developing countries is **underweight**.
7. One in four of the world's **children are stunted**. In developing countries the proportion can rise to one in three.
8. If women farmers had the same access to resources as men, the number of hungry in the world could be reduced by up to 150 million.
9. 66 million primary school-age **children attend classes hungry** across the developing world, with 23 million in Africa alone.
10. WFP calculates that **US\$3.2 billion** is needed per year to reach all 66 million hungry school-age children.

Bulletin Announcements

Here are a few announcements that you can use in your church bulletin to promote your World Hunger Sunday event.

Two weeks before

Did you know that the Bible refers to fish 74 times? Did you also know that children and families have been filling World Renew's orange Peter Fish banks with coins to help people in need for more than 20 years? World Renew invites you to join thousands of others in this year's World Hunger Campaign, called "Fish for Change." Through daily stories and activity suggestions that you can read around your own supper tables you will learn from Peter Fish and discover new ways to share your blessings with those in need. Then join us on [DATE] for World Hunger Sunday.

One week before

Something fishy is happening right now in our congregation and around the world. Through your Peter Fish bank contributions, you are helping to fight global hunger and give families the training they need to overcome poverty, disaster, hunger and injustice. Please continue to read the World Hunger "Fish for Change" stories at your supper tables this week. Then bring your Peter Fish banks to church next week as we celebrate World Hunger Sunday.

World Hunger Sunday

"They all ate and were satisfied" Luke 9:17a. Jesus took five loaves of bread and two fish and miraculously multiplied them to feed 5,000 people. Today, we bring our own small offerings to God and ask him to multiply them through the work of World Renew so that all may overcome poverty and be satisfied. If you want to know more about what World Renew is doing to help people around the world, or if you want to find out ways that you can volunteer or get involved, please visit worldrenew.net.

One week later

Thank you for your support during this year's World Hunger Campaign! This year our church raised \$_____ for World Renew's ministry to people around the world. For additional information about World Renew, please visit worldrenew.net.

Deacon's Hints

Here are a few suggestions to help you plan for and implement a successful “Fish for Change” World Hunger Campaign with your congregation.

TIMEFRAME	ACTION
Two months before	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss World Hunger plans at a deacons’ meeting. • Share materials and dates with your pastor and worship committee to prepare for a World Hunger Sunday. • Check to see if you have Peter Fish banks in storage. If you don’t have enough, order more by calling 1-800-333-8300. You can also encourage your congregation to make their own Peter Fish containers using the stickers found in the devotional booklets. • Order bulletin inserts/covers, devotional booklets, poster and a DVD of World Renew’s World Hunger video.
Two weeks before	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make an announcement during the Sunday service that your World Hunger Campaign is starting. • Distribute Peter Fish banks and devotional booklets to your congregation. • Consider using a children’s sermon to introduce the Peter Fish banks to kids and parents. • Consider organizing a hunger awareness dinner or potluck meal for after your World Hunger Sunday service. • Consider having the youth or Sunday school create a fish banner to decorate your sanctuary or fellowship hall.
One week before	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the youth or Sunday school made a fish banner, hang it in the sanctuary or fellowship hall. • Remind people that next week will be World Hunger Sunday by asking a deacon to make an announcement during the service. Remind people to bring in their Peter Fish banks next week.
World Hunger Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect the Peter Fish banks during the worship service. • Hold an offering for World Renew during your collection. • Use the World Hunger worship materials to conduct a special worship service that highlights God’s ability to multiply our gifts until “all eat and are satisfied” (Luke 9:17z). Challenge people to learn from the fish stories in the Bible and to “fish for change” in the days and years ahead. • Hold your hunger awareness dinner or potluck meal
During the week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the youth meet this week, have them count and roll the Peter Fish offerings.
One week later	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forward gifts from your World Hunger event to World Renew. • Report back to your congregation about how much money you raised during your World Hunger event.

Children's Message 1

Fish for Change

by Sonya VanderVeen Feddema

Props

- a bag containing a Peter Fish bank
- a container holding enough coins for each child.

Hello, boys and girls. It's good to see all of you.

Do you like riddles? *(Children answer)*. I'd like to tell you one. What is orange, has fins, and carries gifts from you, your family, and many others to people all over the world? *(Children answer)*. That's a difficult riddle, isn't it? *(If the children can't guess the answer, Storyteller chooses one of them to take the Peter Fish bank out of the bag. If they do guess the answer, she continues)*.

You're right! The Peter Fish bank. *(Storyteller chooses one of the children to take the Peter Fish bank out of the bag)*.

This year the Peter Fish bank is 20 years old. It's a lot older than all of you. God has been using it to bring gifts to people all over the world for a long time.

Do you know how the Peter Fish bank got its name? *(Children answer)*. Thanks for sharing. Those are all good ideas.

Here's how it really happened. Jesus told his disciple Peter to go fishing in the Sea of Galilee. He told Peter to take the first fish he caught and open its mouth. What do you think Peter found in the fish's mouth? *(Children answer)*. He found a coin! Isn't that amazing? Jesus knew that Peter would find the coin in the fish's mouth — a coin worth enough to pay the temple tax for Peter and Jesus.

People who live around the Sea of Galilee remember this story. That's why they refer to this type of fish as "St. Peter's Fish." When these fish have babies, the moms do something really strange. They carry the baby fish around inside of their mouths to keep them safe. When the fish are old enough to be allowed to swim on their own, the mother fish don't like the empty feeling in their mouths. They fill the empty space with any round object they can find, like a coin or a bottlecap. The Peter Fish bank catches coins, too, so that's how it got its name.

Jesus cares about hungry people. He wants us to care, too. Today you will receive a Peter Fish bank to take home so you can show that you care by putting money in it and by returning it in a few weeks. We will send our Peter Fish money to an organization, called World Renew, that will use your coins to help poor farmers grow more food, help adults go back to school to learn to read and write, and help children grow up healthier all over the world.

Let's start by filling this Peter Fish bank that I have here. I need a few volunteers to hand out these coins. *(Storyteller chooses several volunteers)*. Now that you each have a coin, put the money in the Peter Fish bank. *(Storyteller passes the Peter Fish bank and each child puts his\her coin inside)*.

Let's pray that God will use this money and all the other money we collect to care for people in need.

Prayer: *Dear Lord, we are small, but you are great. We offer these gifts to you. Though they are small, do great things with them. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Children's Message 2

Fill Them Up!

by Sonya VanderVeen Feddema

Props

- **nine Peter Fish banks [eight banks contain a few dried beans or peas; one bank is empty]**
- **a covered bowl filled with dried beans or peas**

Hello, boys and girls. It's good to see all of you.

What did we talk about last week? *(Children answer.)* Right! We talked about Peter Fish. We learned that he's 20 years old now and about how he got his name. We also learned that Jesus cares about hungry and poor people and he wants us to care, too. One way we can do that is by putting money in our Peter Fish banks, like the ones you took home last week. Then an organization, called World Renew, will use your coins to help poor farmers grow more food, help adults go back to school to learn to read and write, and help children grow up healthier all over the world.

(Storyteller points out the Peter Fish banks). What have I got here? *(Children answer).* You're right! I have several Peter Fish banks. Do they look alike? *(Children answer).* Right! They do! But let's find out if they are alike.

I need a volunteer. Who will help me? *(Storyteller chooses a child).*

Now, let's all be very quiet and listen. *(To the volunteer, Storyteller says)* Please shake this Peter Fish bank. *(Volunteer shakes Peter Fish bank).* What did you notice? *(Children answer).* That's right! It sounds like there's something in there. Shall we open it and find out what it is? *(Storyteller opens the bank and pours the dried beans /peas into her hand to show the children).*

What have we got here? *(Children answer).* Great answer! These are dried beans/peas that people can eat once they've been soaked in water and then cooked for a while. *(Storyteller puts the dried beans/peas back inside the bank and reinserts the plug).*

(Storyteller continues allowing the one volunteer [or he/she chooses more volunteers] to shake the other Peter Fish banks, asking similar questions each time, but not removing the contents. The volunteer shakes the bank that is empty). Hey! Did you notice something? *(Children answer).* You're right. It didn't make any noise when it was shaken. Do you know why? *(Children answer).* Great answer! Let's check if it's empty.

(Storyteller opens the bank and allows the children to look inside). It **is** empty!

Eight Peter Fish banks had food inside them and one Peter Fish bank didn't. That's kind of like it is in the world for people, too. One in nine people in our world does not have enough food to eat each day. That means that there are many, many hungry people in the world.

What have I got here? *(Storyteller uncovers the bowl of dried beans/peas and shows the children).* What should we do with the Peter Fish bank that is empty? *(Children answer).* I think that's a great idea. Let's put some of these dried beans/peas into the empty Peter Fish bank. Then it will be full. *(Storyteller picks another child to fill the Peter Fish bank with the dried beans/peas, and reinserts the plug).*

Now all the Peter Fish banks have food in them. That reminds us that God wants all his children to have enough food to eat. He doesn't want any of them to go hungry. He wants every person to have a fair share. When you put coins into the Peter Fish banks that you took home last week, and fill them to the brim, those coins will be used to feed people who are hungry. You can all do your part to help to fill Peter Fish banks and to fill hungry stomachs with food!

Prayer: *Dear Lord, thank you for the food we eat each day. Please be with people who are hungry. Help us to share what we have so they will have food, too. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Children's Message 3

Make a Happy, Joyful Sound!

By Sonya VanderVeen Feddema, inspired by the World Hunger Sunday activities of Maranatha Christian Reformed Church in Cambridge, Ontario.

Props

- a Peter Fish bank filled with coins.

Hello, boys and girls. It's good to see all of you.

I see many of you have returned your Peter Fish banks. That's wonderful! We'll make sure that the organization we have been talking about for the last two weeks, called World Renew, receives your coins so they can help people in need. Don't worry if you didn't return your bank today. You can still bring it next week.

Do you remember what we talked about last week? *(Children answer)*. That's right! We had eight Peter Fish banks that had food inside them and one Peter Fish bank that was empty. That reminded us of what it's like for people, too. One in nine people in our world is hungry. That means that there are many, many hungry people in the world. We also learned that when you put coins into the Peter Fish banks, those coins will be used to feed people who are hungry. And that's exactly what you have done. Thank you for doing that!

Today, we're going to talk about how we can make a happy, joyful sound. What are some ways we could do that? *(Children answer.)* You're right! We could sing a song or we could laugh out loud.

I want to tell you about another way we can make a happy, joyful sound. We can do it by shaking our Peter Fish banks! Let's do that right now! *(Storyteller allows the children to shake the banks)*. That is a happy, joyful sound because the coins in your banks will help to make people's lives happier and more joyful.

When World Renew uses your money to help people around the world, that's one way of making a happy, joyful sound. Maybe World Renew helped a mom or dad learn to read for the first time and then they were able to teach their children to read. Let's shake our Peter Fish banks to share a happy, joyful sound with them! *(Children shake the Peter Fish banks)*.

Maybe World Renew taught a farmer about a special weed-killer that is safe for her family and won't hurt the environment. Then her children or grandchildren don't have to pull weeds all day, making them miss school. Now they are able to go to school and learn. Let's shake our Peter Fish banks again to share a happy, joyful sound with them! *(Children shake the Peter Fish banks)*.

Maybe World Renew gave a family a brick house after their other house was destroyed in a storm. Then, when the next storm comes, they can invite their neighbors to stay safe in their new home that won't be blown away by high winds. Let's shake our Peter Fish banks one more time to share a happy, joyful sound with them! *(Children shake the Peter Fish banks)*.

The amazing thing is that the money you are bringing today will help to create a happy, joyful sound because God is at work in the world loving and caring for poor people.

Let's pray.

Prayer: *Dear God, thanks for your goodness. It has created a happy, joyful sound in our lives. Please use the money we are bringing today in our Peter Fish banks to make a happy, joyful sound in the lives of hungry people. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Drama Script for World Hunger Sunday

God is Hooked on Fishing for Change

by Sonya VanderVeen Feddema

Participants

Reader 1, Reader 2, Fisher 1, Fisher 2, Helper

Props

- two fishing rods with hooks
- two stools
- a fishing net
- fish-shaped poster board cut-outs with a hole punched in the top, middle (each cut-out has one of the following words or phrases written on it in bold print: EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE, FARMING SKILLS, GENDER EQUALITY)

Set

- Reader 1 and Reader 2 stand by their podiums on opposite sides of the stage.
- Fisher 1 and Fisher 2 sit on stools at center stage, each holding a fishing rod.
- Helper sits on stairs leading up to stage, ready to put “fish” on hooks.

Reader 1: The Lord is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens. (*Psalm 113:4*)

Reader 2: Who is like the Lord our God, the One who sits enthroned on high, who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth? (*Psalm 113:5-6*)

Reader 1: He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap. (*Psalm 113:7*)

Reader 2: He seats them with princes, with the princes of his people. (*Psalm 113:8*)

Reader 1: God is hooked on love.

Reader 2: God is hooked on justice.

Reader 1: God is hooked on fishing for change — change that will bring about his will on earth as it is done in heaven.

Reader 2: And he wants to use us to fish for change — to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God. (*Micah 6:8*)

(Helper hooks a “fish” called EDUCATION on Fisher 1’s line.)

Fisher 1: **(Jerks line.)** Wow! I’ve caught a big one! **(Reels in fish.)**

Fisher 2: **(Excitedly.)** What’ve you got? A largemouth bass?

Fisher 1: Get the net! Get the net! Hurry!

(Fisher 2 grabs the net and scoops the fish off Fisher 1’s line.)

Fisher 1: **(Grabs the fish and holds it up for the congregation to see.)** What’s this? I’ve caught a fish called EDUCATION! I’ve never seen one of these before.

Fisher 2: That’s weird. Let’s try again.

(Fisher 1 and Fisher 2 cast their lines and wait to catch a fish. Helper hooks a “fish” called HEALTH CARE on Fisher 2’s line.)

Fisher 2: *(Jerks line.)* Hey! Maybe this is a pike. *(Reels in fish.)*

Fisher 1: That would be great! *(Puts down fishing rod and picks up net, and scoops the fish from Fisher 2's line.)*

Fisher 2: *(Grabs the fish and holds it up for the congregation to see.)* Oh no! This one's called HEALTH CARE.

Fisher 1: HEALTH CARE! EDUCATION! Strange fish!

(Fisher 1 and Fisher 2 cast their lines and wait to catch a fish. Helper hooks a "fish" called FARMING SKILLS on Fisher 1's line.)

Fisher 1: *(Jerks line.)* I got one! I got one! *(Reels in fish.)*

Fisher 2: This one better be good to eat! *(Puts down fishing rod and picks up net.)* What've you got? A sturgeon? *(Scoops the fish from Fisher 1's line.)*

Fisher 1: *(Grabs the fish and holds it up for the congregation to see.)* Oh no! This one's called FARMING SKILLS. I quit!

Fisher 2: Hey! I don't want to leave yet! Give it a few more minutes. We'll catch something we can eat. You'll see!

(Fisher 1 and Fisher 2 cast their lines and wait to catch a fish. Helper hooks a "fish" called GENDER EQUALITY on Fisher 2's line.)

Fisher 2: *(Jerks line.)* Hey! I got one! *(Reels in fish.)*

Fisher 1: A walleye? *(Puts down fishing rod and picks up net, and scoops the fish from Fisher 2's line.)*

Fisher 2: *(Grabs the fish and holds it up for the congregation to see.)* Oh no! Not again! This one's called GENDER EQUALITY.

Fisher 1: That's bizarre! What's the name of this lake anyway?

Fisher 2: God's Change. The lake's name is God's Change.

Reader 1: *(During the reading, Fisher 1 and Fisher 2 listen reflectively.)* He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

Reader 2: And what does the Lord require of you?

Reader 1: To act justly

Reader 2: and to love mercy

Reader 1: and to walk humbly with your God. *(Micah 6:8)*

(Fisher 1, Fisher 2, and Helper exit the stage. Reader 1 and Reader 2 follow.)

Sermon Notes

Following Jesus and Fishing for People

By Rev. Kris VanEngen

Scripture passage: Luke 5:1-11

Fishing for people means reversing injustice and suffering

For many Christians the account of Jesus inviting Peter, James and John to fish for people is one of their first learned and most well-known Bible stories. There are even song lyrics, “I will make you fishers of men if you follow me,” with actions.

In modern times this story may be one’s first encounter with the idea of fishing for people but for Peter, James, and John, this was actually not their first time hearing of the strange concept. They had Old Testament prophecies and stories that they would have heard as children from their teachers about God fishing for people.

Here are some examples . . .

Jeremiah 16 envisions the LORD sending for many fisherman in order to catch the wayward members of Israel, especially those who have polluted the land with Idols.

Amos 4:1 targets the political and economic elites of Israel saying to the ones who oppress the poor and crush the needy, “the time is surely coming when they shall take you away with hooks, even the last of you with fishhooks.”

Another fishing story is found in Ezekiel 29 where God says to Pharaoh, “You say the Nile belongs to me; I made it for myself, but I will put hooks in your jaws and make the fish of your streams stick to your scales. I will pull you out from your streams, with all your fish sticking to your scales. I will leave you in the desert, you and all the fish in your streams.”

For Peter, James and John fishing for people didn’t just mean changing the conditions of individual hearts it meant putting an end to conditions of selfishness and oppression. Fishing for people meant systems that brought hunger and slavery would be tossed aside and replaced by systems of human flourishing.

During the timeframe of Jesus calling his disciples, the Roman Cicero wrote “The most shameful occupations are those which cater to our sensual pleasures: fish-sellers, butchers, cooks, poultry-raisers and fisherman. The fisher,” he added, “is more miserable than any other profession.”

As fisherman, Peter, James and John, understood what it meant to live stigmatized lives in oppressive conditions. The message that it was time to start fishing for people would have been a message of hope.

Fishing for people means fishing in your own heart

In today’s interconnected world, life isn’t always as simple as a few people oppressing while everyone else suffers powerlessly. In North America, through one’s dollars, through one’s voice, sometimes through silence, and through votes many people have the power to cause and condone oppression or to reverse suffering and contribute to human flourishing.

Peter went fishing in his own heart and found himself, in Jesus presence, deserving to be cast aside. He falls on his knees before Jesus and says, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” This is when Jesus said the famous words, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.”

The introspective type and those who are honest with themselves might find themselves lacking when it comes to reversing the struggles of the poor. The most honest will even recognize their own selfishness and fears as contributing to human suffering. But Jesus doesn't choose who will bring change based on one's worthiness, he chooses based on his own worthiness and sends them his followers out telling them, "do not be afraid."

Fishing for people means trusting and listening

The work of the Kingdom, proclaiming Jesus in word and deed can seem hopeless. Sometimes efforts appear ineffective. The disciples had already been fishing all night when Jesus said, "put out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch". Notice Jesus didn't say "Let down your nets and see what happens." He said, "Let down your nets for a catch." The expectation was there in Jesus' words that fish would be caught. Expectations of the kingdom can be too small. Jesus shattered the expectations of his followers again and again by giving miraculous signs and empowering people who might otherwise be on the margins.

When Jesus' followers listen, unusual results, from a worldly point of view, are to be expected.

Song Suggestions

Consider teaching your Sunday school children or even the whole congregation this fun song, “Go Fish” (used with permission). To hear the song or download sheet music, visit www.truevinemusic.com/go_fish_catch_the_joy.htm

Here are a few additional songs for you to consider for inclusion in your World Hunger Sunday service.

Songs from the Gray Psalter Hymnal

- #293 *“What Does the Lord Require”*
- #541 *“Christ Shall Have Dominion”*
- #606 *“O God of Every Nation”*
- #528 *“Lord Speak to Me That I May Speak”*
- #235 *“Here From All Nations”*

Sing! A New Creation

- #269 *“Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”*
- #264 *“When a Prophet Sings of Justice”*
- #268 *“Here I am, Lord”*
- #56 *“Change My Heart O God”*
- #267 *“Will You Come and Follow Me”*

Lift Up Your Hearts: Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs

- #116 *“Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”*
- #869 *“Here I am, Lord”*
- #289 *“For the Healing of the Nations”*
- #282 *“O God of Every Nation”*
- #745 *“Lord Speak to Me That I May Speak”*
- #490 *“Here From All Nations”*
- #742 *“Will You Come and Follow Me”*

Youth Activity

FAST Forward



World Renew's FASTForward project is a 24-hour fast to help end world hunger.

FASTForward provides a concrete way for teens to act on their desire to share God's love with people in need and grow spiritually at the same time.

Not only does FASTForward raise awareness about world hunger, it also unites youth group members like never before. The impact reaches teens, their families, and their church and lasts long after the FAST is over.

Organizing and participating in the FASTForward project is easy. Everything you'll need is provided, free of charge, by World Renew. In fact, most of the resources you'll need are available right on our website (worldrenew.net/fastforward).

The first step is for your school or youth group to decide to participate. You can hold your FAST during lent, in November in conjunction with World Hunger Sunday, or choose another time that works best for you.

Next, you can determine the type of fast that you'd like to participate in. We recommend a fast from food for 24 hours, but other options include an electronic fast (going without cell phones, tablets, televisions and computers for 24 hours) or a carbon fast (where you reduce your carbon footprint by making lifestyle changes for a 24 hour period).

You and your group could also raise money from donors and sponsors — asking them to give a gift of love to their neighbors around the world who do not have enough to eat in respond to your fast.

The group then participates in their chosen fast for 24 hours. During this time your school or youth group engages in different activities from community service projects, to Bible studies, to interactive games. Our hope is that you will benefit spiritually from your 24-hour fast and also discover ways to grow and learn together.

Through your participation in FASTForward, you will give up something that you've become accustomed to and be reminded of how dependent we all are on God. It is also a great way to raise money for a specific World Renew ministry and impact countless lives around the world. Learn more or sign up today at worldrenew.net/fastforward.

Advocacy

Use Your Voice

Government aid is not THE answer to ending hunger, but it does have an important role to play in the wake of crisis. A significant portion of government aid is actually implemented by Christian organizations, including World Renew, and our staff members often have opportunities to advise Canadian and U.S. government on how aid can be implemented in sustainable ways.

Unfortunately, poverty-focused aid is a small portion of our federal budgets. When used wisely, however, even this small amount can have a significant impact in the countries where we work.

With smart improvements our governments can respond more quickly when disaster hits. We can provide food that is more nutritious, especially to women and children in the critical 1,000 day window between conception and a child's second birthday. We can better support small-scale farmers in other countries by buying food closer to where it is needed.

World Renew and our partners like Food Resource Bank, Bread for the World, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and the Micah Network ask that you join us in urging our governments to reform aid programs in ways that strengthen small farms and lead to long healthy lives.

Many partners joining their voices together can make significant change for farmers and their communities.

Please prayerfully consider sending a letter, speaking with your government representative, or participating in another way with one of the following campaigns.

- **In the US:** World Renew partners with the Office of Social Justice of the CRC on advocacy campaigns that encourage members of Congress to continue supporting initiatives that address root causes of global hunger, such as programs that support maternal and child health, women's empowerment, and sustainable agriculture.
- **In Canada:** World Renew is working with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank on an advocacy campaign to encourage the Canadian government to continue its long history of fighting world hunger by maintaining or increasing its levels of support for agricultural development in its foreign aid budget. You can learn more at worldrenew.net/goodsoil

World Renew also has speakers, worship resources, and educational and advocacy materials that can help your congregation become effective advocates with the government. Please contact us to get involved. We value your voice. www.worldrenew.net/advocacy

**Look for other World Renew offering materials
for the following dates:**

- **Thanksgiving (U.S.) — November 26, 2015**
- **Christmas Day — December 25, 2015**
- **Canadian Foodgrains Bank Sunday (Canada) — March 6, 2016**
- **Disaster Response Services Sunday (U.S.) — March 6, 2016**
- **Refugee Sunday (Canada) — April 10, 2016**
- **Maternal & Child Health Sunday — May 22, 2016**
- **Thanksgiving (Canada) — October 10, 2016**
- **World Hunger Sunday — November 6, 2016**



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