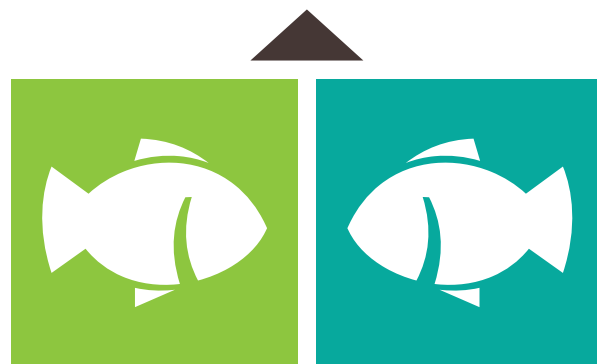




# **FEEDING** **5,000** **LESSONS**



# LESSON 1

## OPENING PRAYER

Creator God, to you and only you we give our thanks and praise. We know you have given us enough so no one is hungry or thirsty or without a home, yet we see people all over the world who are in need. Open our hearts and minds so we can learn and grow in our faith and connect to others in positive ways. Bless us all in our teaching and learning. Amen.

## BUILD THE ARK

### Scripture: Genesis 9:16

*"When the rainbow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the Earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the Earth."*

### Heifer Cornerstone: Passing on the Gift®

Every family who receives an animal agrees to pass on one or more of their animal's offspring to another family in need. They also agree to pass on the training and skills that they have acquired to others.

### Connect Point

Make a connection between God's covenant with humankind and the covenant we establish among each other. We share knowledge with others to educate them in hopes of a better life for all.

### Animal: Heifer

The first animal Dan West sent to Puerto Rico in 1944 was a heifer. Read about the attributes and cost of cows on the animal inserts.

### Scripture: Genesis 41:47-49, 56-57

*During the seven plenteous years the earth produced abundantly. He (Joseph) gathered up all the food of the seven years when there was plenty in the land of Egypt, and stored up food in the cities; he stored up in every city the food from the fields around it. So Joseph stored up grain in such abundance—like the sand of the sea—that he stopped measuring it; it was beyond measure.*

*And since the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. Moreover, all the world came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, because the famine became severe throughout the world.*

### Heifer Cornerstone: Sustainability and Self-Reliance

Each community must develop a plan for how to support itself.

### Connect Point

Make a connection between Joseph's management of agriculture and how systems need to be put into place for a community to be self-sustaining.

### Animal: Chickens

Read about the attributes and cost of chickens on the animal inserts.

### Scripture: Matthew 14:16-21

*Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over the broken pieces, 12 baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.*

### Heifer Cornerstone: Full Participation

A truly effective group has strong leadership and organization and is committed to involving all members in decision-making.

### Connect Point

Make a connection between the miracle of the Feeding of the 5,000 and full participation in a local Heifer project.

### Animal: Fish

Read about the attributes and cost of fish on the animal inserts.

## TAKE ACTION

Tape the Cornerstone and scripture card on the ark; then, place the animal card on the deck of the ark.

Talk about the fundraiser you are doing as a church. Share appropriate information each week.

### Fill the Ark

- Hand out the giving banks and calendars.
- Ask the group for ideas—in addition to those on the calendar—about how they can collect money for their giving banks.

### Living Gift Market

- Assign an animal or resource to promote at the Living Market. Discover why the chosen animal or commodity is a valuable item for Heifer to give to someone in need.
- What are the by-products of the animal? Could they be showcased in the booth?

# LESSON 2

## OPENING PRAYER

God, you are our helper in all things. People can sometimes work and farm in ways that hurt the Earth and each other. We are thankful people around the world can support their families and work in harmony with the Earth and one another with Heifer's support. Open our hearts and minds during our time together so we, too, can be in harmony with your will for the world. Amen.

## BUILD THE ARK

### Scripture: Genesis 9:9-11

*"But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every kind shall come in to you, to keep them alive. Also, take with you every kind of food that is eaten, and store it up; and it shall serve as food for you and for them." Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.*

### Heifer Cornerstone: Improved Animal and Resource Management

Proper methods regarding feed, water, shelter and health care for the animals assure that the livestock will continue to be a source of well-being. The species and breed chosen must be appropriate for the area.

### Connect Point

Make a connection between the animal management Noah practiced and the methods that Heifer uses in placing specific animals with certain families.

### Animal: Bees

Read about the attributes and cost of bees from the animal insert.

### Scripture: Genesis 45:9-11

*Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'*

### Heifer Cornerstone: Sharing and Caring

If all people commit to sharing what they have and caring about others, everyone benefits.

### Connect Point

Make a connection between Joseph's empathy for his struggling family and sharing from his abundance. Families and communities are strengthened when we love our neighbors as ourselves. Sharing is an outward reflection of caring.

### Animal: Pigs

Read the attributes and cost of pigs from the animal insert.

### Scripture: Psalm 8:3-9

*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?*

*Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.*

### Heifer Cornerstone: Improving the Environment

Heifer livestock should improve the environment by making a positive impact on ecology.

### Connect Point

Make a connection between God's granting humankind dominion over creation and humankind's responsibility for the environment.

### Animal: Trees

Read the attributes and cost of the trees from the animal insert.

## TAKE ACTION

Tape the Cornerstone and scripture card on the ark; then, place the animal card on the deck of the ark.

### Fill the Ark

- Review all Heifer resources and start a discussion about what the group can afford to buy.
- Should the group buy one expensive gift, several small gifts or a mix?
- Ask the group for stories about collecting money for their giving banks.

### Living Gift Market

- Think of ways to make the booth come to life.
- Would anyone like to dress up as the animal?
- Does anyone know someone who could bring in a live animal?

For midweek group lessons, or to use as a review during whole group time, use Sharing and Caring as the primary Cornerstone you discuss with your students.

# LESSON 3

## OPENING PRAYER

How great is your handiwork, oh, God! You created the world and all the animals that dwell upon it. When people work within the cycles of nature, we can see how dead leaves and plants, along with manure, are turned into a perfect place for crops to grow. Dark, rich soil protects the seeds when they are planted and provides nutrition when they start to grow. We know when we treat the Earth with respect, plants can grow better. Amazing things happen when animals and humans live in harmony with the Earth. Bless us as we learn and work to make the world a better place to live and grow. Amen.

## BUILD THE ARK

### Scripture: Leviticus 19:9-10 and Ruth 2:2

*When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien; I am the Lord your God.*

### Heifer Cornerstone: Gender and Family Focus

Women and men share in decision-making, ownership, labor and benefits. Heifer has programs that support women's empowerment.

### Connect Point

Make a connection between how the gifts of both women and men are equally important in establishing productive and successful families, churches and ultimately communities just as Ruth took responsibility to feed her family.

### Animal: Water Buffalo

Read the attributes and cost of the water buffalo from the animal insert.

### Scripture: Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

*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.*

### Heifer Cornerstone: Training, Education and Communication

Once a project is introduced to an area, the local people become involved as trainers in livestock husbandry while caring for the environment. Training and education is key to ensuring the success of a project in a community.

### Connect Point

Make a connection between training and creating a future of hope.

### Animal: Goat

Read the attributes and cost of the goats from the insert.

### Scripture: Psalm 63:1

*God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you.*

### Heifer Cornerstone: Spirituality

Spirituality is expressed in values and beliefs that are common to all people, which often creates a strong bond among group members.

### Connect Point

Make a connection between spirituality and a desire to connect with the Creator.

### Animal: Rabbits

Read the attributes and cost of rabbits from the animal insert.

## TAKE ACTION

Tape the Cornerstone and scripture card on the ark; then, place the animal card on the deck of the ark.

### Fill the Ark

- Decide what the group will buy with the money raised.
- Ask the group for stories about collecting money for their giving banks.
- Remind each student to bring his or her bank to church next week.

### Living Gift Market

- How can the booth become interactive?
- What is the lure that will encourage people to buy one of your animals?
- What supplies are needed? Where will the group get them?

For midweek group lessons, or to use as a review during whole group time, use Gender and Family Focus as the primary Cornerstone you discuss with your students.

# LESSON 4

## OPENING PRAYER

God, we know you desire for all people to work together so no one is in need and no one is uncared for. Bless our learning today and help us grow in our understanding and knowledge of how we can work together to achieve things none of us could do alone. We give thanks for the ways that Heifer encourages communities to work together and honors the gifts of each member of the community. Your Son welcomed everyone to participate in your Kingdom. Bless us all as we work to make your Kingdom a reality on Earth. Amen.

## BUILD THE ARK

### Scripture: 1 Samuel 28:22

*Eat, that you may have strength to go on your way.*

### Heifer Cornerstone: Nutrition and Income

Livestock provides for the immediate need of nutrition while also ensuring long-term economic security.

### Connect Point

Make a connection between how nutrition sustains our outward, physical bodies so our spiritual lives can thrive.

### Animal: Sheep

Read about the attributes and cost of sheep on the animal inserts.

### Scripture: Ezra 6:2

*But it was in Ecbatana, the capital in the province of Media, that a scroll was found on which this was written: "A record ..."*

### Heifer Cornerstone: Accountability

Groups set their own goals, plan strategies and must submit semi-annual monitoring reports to Heifer International.

### Connect Point

Make a connection between how people have relied on others to keep one another accountable even since biblical times, since relying on human nature can prove to be dangerous.

### Animal: Llamas

Read the attributes and cost of the llamas from the insert.

### Scripture: Micah 6:8

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.*

### Heifer Cornerstone: Genuine Need and Justice

The poorest in the community should be included in the group membership and receive priority for assistance.

### Connect Point

Make a connection between the genuine need found in struggling communities and how we respond to the call to "do justice" and "love kindness" to make sure their needs are met and they are treated fairly.

### Animal: Ducks and Geese

Read the attributes and cost of ducks and geese from the animal insert.

## TAKE ACTION

Tape the Cornerstone and scripture card on the ark; then, place the animal card on the deck of the ark.

### Fill the Ark

- Collect the giving banks and estimate how much money came in.
- Announce the money collected. Could more be collected? Do they want to work for a Gift Ark of \$5,000?
- Has a worship service been planned where the total could be announced and celebrated? Look in the resource kit for the worship celebration suggestions.

### Living Gift Market

- What posters should be made? What information should they contain?
- What last-minute details need to get done?

For midweek group lessons, or to use as a review during whole group time, use Genuine Need and Justice as the primary Cornerstone you discuss with your students.