



## LEADER'S GUIDE

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share Heifer's Fill the Ark program with you. Fill the Ark is a free, four-week learning and sharing program families and individuals can use at home. These materials are delightful, and all ages will have fun using them. They also have an important and serious purpose that educators and leaders will appreciate.

Fill the Ark is designed to:

- Encourage members of all ages to participate in a global education and fundraising project
- Bring family members together to discuss and build awareness of their global family
- Teach about the root causes of hunger and poverty
- Show how the way we live affects other people
- Provide a practical way to help end hunger and poverty
- Facilitate fellowship in celebrating accomplishments and committing to new goals

With Fill the Ark, your group can raise funds to support lasting solutions to help hungry people.

The concept of the ark offers rich imagery as a place of refuge against disaster. Today, the concept of an ark of refuge against storms of hunger and poverty is also meaningful. The prospect of a deteriorating environment and disappearing species is as real today as in the time of Noah.

Since 1944, Heifer International has worked with people of all faiths to provide families around the world with training and inputs that enable them to become self-reliant. These gifts include livestock, fish, trees, seeds, improved cook stoves, efficient irrigation equipment, and much more. Through Heifer's tradition of Passing on the Gift®, these gifts are multiplied countless times over.

Thank you for being our partners in solidarity with all of God's creation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pierre U. Ferrari". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'P' at the beginning.

Pierre U. Ferrari  
President and CEO  
Heifer International



## A Leader's Guide to Fill the Ark

People the world over are seeing a moment of opportunity. We're inspired by visions of peace conquering war; the eradication of disease and famine; and the restoration of the ravaged and exploited environment. We hope for a better life in the future as we work for the victory of hope over desperation, and the triumph of God's grace over human despair.

The story of Noah's Ark and God's rainbow with its promise of a new day of dignity and productivity has never been more relevant.

Today, you have the opportunity to offer a new and healthy life filled with anticipation and fruitfulness to a few of the world's "least of these." Along with those in your home and congregation, and others across the nation and the globe, you have a chance to change hundreds, thousands, even millions of lives. You have

what it takes to renew the world's hope. Together, we have power over poverty.

Through Fill the Ark, you and your congregation will learn how your gifts share God's love and make a real difference.

Decades from now, when your grandchildren ask what you did to make the world a better place, you can say, "Our congregation helped Fill an Ark."

**This program is a four-week voyage into real solutions to world hunger.**

Your program can be as simple or as elaborate as you like. Explore the possibilities of the ark theme, see worship ideas, include all ages in activities and celebrate your congregation's role in helping hungry families around the world!



## Preparing for Launch

1. For large congregations, it's helpful to have a coordinator order supplies and handle publicity. Order your free Fill the Ark calendar and Giving Banks by calling **888.5HUNGER/888.548.6437**. Please order one calendar and Giving Bank per family. For a kit that includes a Leader's Guide, 25 calendars and 25 banks, please request item **KTFTA**.
2. Set up a fundraising page for your congregation at **[www.heifer.org/fundraise](http://www.heifer.org/fundraise)**.
3. Set a launch date and plan when and how you will distribute materials—Will it be before the worship service? Immediately after?
4. Print an announcement in your congregation's newsletter and bulletin.
5. Present one of our award-winning videos, which can be found at **<https://vimeo.com/heifer>**.
6. A prominently placed display table of Heifer International materials is often helpful. Order additional Heifer materials from **[www.heifer.org/shop](http://www.heifer.org/shop)**.
7. Visits to Heifer's educational campuses enrich your experience by making the communities and countries where we work every day come alive. These "living classrooms" provide an unforgettable, hands-on experience, as well as an appreciation for Heifer's endeavors. For program information at any one of our three learning centers, Heifer Village, Little Rock, Ark., Heifer Ranch, Perryville, Ark. or Heifer Farm, Rutland, Mass., contact **[reservations@heifer.org](mailto:reservations@heifer.org)** or call **855.3HEIFER (855.343.4337)**.





## WEEK ONE

### Launching the Ark

Introduce Fill the Ark at a congregational gathering—at worship, a luncheon or a dinner. Incorporate the Noah's Ark theme. Raise awareness of your congregation's Fill the Ark effort.

Explain how each family will have the opportunity to help provide farm animals and training to people in need of food and income.

Distribute one Giving Bank and one calendar to each family. Explain that a page of the calendar should be turned over each week. (At the end of your Fill the Ark program, you'll return the funds you collected to Heifer. Be sure to identify your congregation.)

## WEEKS TWO TO FOUR

### Promote Ark Giving

Place Fill the Ark reminders in your congregation's newsletter and on website, Facebook, etc.

Photocopy the bulletin inserts on page 10 and distribute them with your worship bulletins. Other bulletin inserts can be ordered at [www.heifer.org/shop](http://www.heifer.org/shop). Click on "congregational resources" or call **888.548.6437**.

Present a creative reminder during each week's worship.

On week four, remind your congregation to bring their banks the following week.

## WEEK FIVE

### Landing the Ark

Plan a receiving ceremony. Talk about how individual gifts seem insignificant when alone, but when combined, they make up a powerful force to help families create a new beginning. Collect the banks.

Report to your congregation the total amount of gifts received.

Celebrate with a play, a meal, music from around the world or another special activity.

Enclose it with one check in the envelope. Make the check payable to Heifer International. Please designate Fill the Ark on the check and include your congregation's Fundraise for Heifer name, if applicable.



## Fill the Ark Worship Ideas

### 1. An Ark for Today's World

In 1944, Heifer sent Faith, Hope, Charity and 15 other heifers by ship to struggling families in Puerto Rico. That voyage marked the start of a new life for those families and for others like them around the world.

Today, we provide 15 different animals, along with seeds and trees. Other animals become part of Heifer's Ark as project participants make important environmental improvements on their land. Some projects form a buffer zone around endangered nature reserves.

As it was for Noah, so it is today: the ark is about hope and a new beginning. For Heifer project families, farm animals can provide:

- Nutritious food for the children through milk, eggs or meat
- Income for housing, health care, school fees and other needs
- Motivation to plant trees and grass and make other environmental improvements
- A catalyst for community development
- Small business development training

The ark is also about multiplication. God told Noah, "Bring with you every living thing—birds and animals and every creeping thing—so that they may abound on the Earth and be fruitful and multiply." (Gen. 8:17)

Today, Heifer animals are spreading hope over the Earth as each participating family passes on the gift of one or more of their animals' offspring to another family in need. This miracle of birth creates a chain of giving that continues for years.

### 2. Reflection Notes

The most urgent question facing our world is whether we can act quickly enough to save the Earth and its inhabitants. Noah faced a similar question thousands of years ago.

In biblical times, the actions of people brought on God's flood. Today, we are the ones who threaten to destroy God's creation. Today's flood takes the form of war, environmental destruction and massive poverty and hunger—all problems created by greed and injustice that can be remedied with compassionate action.





God told Noah to build an ark and to take every kind of animal into it. To save the Earth for our children and future generations, we too must build an ark of refuge. As Noah drew upon faith and hope, so we must draw on faith and hope to build a future with no hunger and a healthy environment.

### 3. Related Scriptures

- Noah and the Ark: Genesis 6-9
- Noah's faith: Hebrews 11:7
- Caring for others: Isaiah 58:6-9, Matthew 25:31-46

### 4. Related Hymns

- "For the Beauty of the Earth"
- "All Things Bright and Beautiful"
- "God of the Sparrow"
- "All Creatures of Our God and King"
- "Hymn of Promise"
- "This Is My Father's World"
- "He Reigns"
- "Here I am, Lord"
- "The Butterfly Song"
- "Until All Are Fed"
- "Come to the Water"

### 5. Children's Activities

- Tell the story of Noah's Ark from memory. Have classes draw pictures of the ark and animals for display in the sanctuary. Or make an ark mural. Draw the Heifer animals that help hungry families.
- Act out the story of Noah's Ark during worship.
- Use paper masks or make costumes.
- Create a puppet show about a family saving money to provide a Heifer animal and a family receiving one.

### 6. Creative Publicity

- Have someone dressed as Noah make announcements and tell the ark story.
- Imagine that you are a news reporter living in the days before the flood. Interview Noah.
- Give a weekly flood warning or weather report.
- Build an ark of wood, papier mâché or cardboard to display.
- Don't forget to share photos on your congregation's website and social media, with links to your Heifer fundraising page.

As part of your Fill the Ark program,  
challenge your congregation  
to raise \$5,000 for a





# See how far \$5,000 will go

Your gift may include the following:

## TWO ALPACAS

to give families in Peru fiber to make warm winter clothing

## TWO BEEHIVES

to help families in Mexico earn money through the sale of honey and beeswax

## TWO FLOCKS OF CHICKS

to help Bangladeshi families improve nutrition and replenish their land

## TWO COWS

to bring milk and income to a Cambodian village

## TWO DONKEYS

to supply animal draft power for farmers in Zimbabwe

## TWO TRIOS OF DUCKS

to help families in Cambodia generate income through the sale of eggs and birds

## TWO FLOCKS OF GEESE

to help two families in China better their nutrition and income through the production of eggs and meat

## TWO GOATS

to help two Ugandan families provide milk for their children and earn extra income

## TWO TRIOS OF GUINEA PIGS

to help Ecuadorian families add protein to their diets and earn income

## TWO LLAMAS

to improve livestock bloodlines and produce wool for Bolivian families

## TWO OXEN

to pull plows and carts in Nepal

## TWO PIGS

to help Honduran families attain greater self-reliance

## TWO SHEEP

to help Ecuadorian families produce wool

## TWO TRIOS OF RABBITS

to provide food and income to families in Guatemala

## TWO WATER BUFFALO

to help Filipino families increase rice production through animal draft power

*Contributions to the Gift Ark program are symbolic and represent a contribution to the entire mission of Heifer International. When animal groups are fully funded, additional donations will be used where needed most.*

# Liturgy

**Leader:** Let us praise God for the story of the Ark.

**Congregation:** Let us recall what it means for us.

**L:** When evil ruled people's hearts, Noah's family remained righteous and was delivered.

**C:** It was faith that made Noah hear God's warning about things in the future he could not see.

**L:** With the Ark, God moved the animals and people from a place of despair to a place of hope.

**C:** In the Ark, we see God preserving biodiversity. Every species created by God has value and its place in creation.

**L:** In the Ark, we see God's affirmation that the Earth, animals and people are all needed for a sustainable world.

**C:** In the symbol of the rainbow, we are reminded of God's covenant with Noah, a covenant with all of life.

**L:** In the symbol of the dove and olive branch, we are reminded of God's peace for all creation.

**C:** God calls us to peace, to living in covenant with all the other species and with the Earth.

**L:** Through the symbol of the Ark, God calls us away from greed and ecological destruction.

**C:** God calls us to care for others and share what we have and who we are with people in need.

**L:** God calls us to build a just and sustainable world so that poverty and hunger no longer plague the world's people.

**C:** In the Ark, the rainbow and the dove, we see God's promise that faith will lead to a new beginning.

**L:** Let us praise God for the Ark!

**C:** Let us recall and live what it means for us today.

# An Ark for Today's World

One little raindrop doesn't amount to much. It can't quench a thirst or relieve an afternoon's heat. But if you add them up, raindrops can make a flood. Noah built the Ark because a flood caused by human sinfulness threatened all species. Safe in the Ark, Noah, his family and the animals weathered the storm. After the flood, a rainbow symbolized God's promise to preserve the rhythm of planting and harvest that provides sustenance for humankind as long as the Earth endures.

Our world situation is much like Noah's. The gap between rich and poor widens. Hunger stalks the planet. And by violating the environment, humankind has worsened the scenario. Deforestation and poor crop management have eroded the soil and made many areas unfit for habitation. It may look like it's time for a second flood. But there's another option.

Heifer International is the ark for today's world, taking aboard those who believe that through their own giving, people across the globe can build a better, more abundant life. Heifer animals, including goats in Honduras, llamas in Ecuador and water buffalo in Nepal, offer ongoing sources of sustenance and support.

In partnership with thousands of congregations, Heifer's Ark carries hope into thousands of communities, bringing hope and healing and the joy of Passing on the Gift® to families around the world. Every family who receives livestock agrees to pass on one or more of its animals' offspring to a neighbor in need. The family also passes on new skills in growing crops and caring for the environment.

Your gift shines a rainbow of hope and healing across the entire world. Take a lesson from the raindrop. When many join together, they make a huge difference. When you board Heifer's Ark, you are creating a rainbow of hope for people in need. By helping Fill an Ark, you'll help people around the world build more productive lives ... and a better Earth!



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**Join other households and individuals  
and help start families on the way  
to self-reliance through Fill the Ark.**



**The mission of Heifer International is to  
work with communities to end hunger  
and poverty and care for the Earth.**

**Since 1944, Heifer has helped more than  
22.6 million families in more than  
125 countries move toward greater  
self-reliance through gifts of livestock and  
training in environmentally sound agriculture.  
The impact of each initial gift is multiplied  
as recipients agree to Pass on the Gift of  
one or more of their animals' offspring,  
or the equivalent, to another in need.**





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