



WORSHIP RESOURCES

When you participate in the CROP Hunger Walk, it's an act of worship. Your faith can move mountains...so it can definitely change the food landscape for families who live with hunger!

That's why we've created worship resources with a focus on this year's theme: "Raising Animals; Growing Communities" in the Dominican Republic. You'll find everything you need in this packet to invite your faith community into that theme - and a greater understanding of how your gifts are growing new life around the world.

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Interested in focusing on this theme in your Sunday School lessons?
Visit resources.crophungerwalk.org/sunday-school-curriculum for an engaging five-week curriculum leading up to your CROP Hunger Walk!

CELEBRATING OUR WALK THROUGH MUSIC

HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

Author: Cecil Frances Alexander (1848)

Music: ROYAL OAK (7.6.7.6)

TAKE MY LIFE, AND LET IT BE

Author: Francis Ridley Havergal (1874)

Music: HENDON (7.7.7.7.7)

COME CHRISTIANS, JOIN TO SING

Author: Christian H. Bateman (1843)

Music: MADRID (6.6.6.6.D)

A CHARGE TO KEEP I HAVE

Author: Charles Wesley (1762)

Music: BOYLESTON (6.6.8.6)

CONTEMPORARY SONGS FOR WORSHIP

JESUS DRAW ME EVER NEARER

CCLI Song # 3552533

Keith Getty | Margaret Becker

© 2002 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Modern M. Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

O COME TO THE ALTAR

CCLI Song # 7051511

Chris Brown | Mack Brock | Steven Furtick | Wade Joye

© 2015 Music by Elevation Worship Publishing (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)

WHO YOU SAY I AM

CCLI Song # 7102401

Ben Fielding | Reuben Morgan

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MOMENT FOR MISSION: RAMONA AND HER PIGS

“I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God’s gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil”

— ECCLESIASTES 3:12-13 NRSV

Life can be predictable. We wake up, go to school or work, eat and sleep. And then we repeat it all over again the next day. We get used to, or even rely on, our predictable routines. But sometimes life throws something - or someone - at us that totally disrupts those routines.

Ramona is one of those “someones” who disrupts routines. She lives in the Dominican Republic, and she believes that everyone in her community should have enough to eat. So she’s shaking things up.

How? Well, it started with a pig. Her husband was skeptical when Ramona enrolled in a pig program our CROP Hunger Walk helps support. As part of that program, she received a tiny piglet...and that’s when routines went out the door.

The pig started to grow. And then it had babies. And those babies grew. And before long, Ramona was officially a small-scale pig farmer in her community. Now, she’s sharing those pigs with her neighbors, schools, kids and her grandkids so that everyone gets part of this amazing gift. She’s a one-woman training center on pig farming in her community.

Ramona is shaking things up because she knows that hunger should never be a part of the daily routine. Not for her family, not for her community, not for people right here in this congregation. **That’s why I walk in the CROP Hunger Walk.**

Share why walking is important to you. The members of your congregation will be inspired to hear why you are walking this year.

Ramona is so thankful people like you believe that no one should suffer from hunger. When she was asked what she would say to the CROP Hunger Walk donors who helped her get that first piglet, she said: “People in this community aren’t looking for handouts. They want to work. They want someone to teach them how to work in a way that will help their families. That’s what they really need.”

That’s what the CROP Hunger Walkers and their donors make possible every day. One pig. That’s all it took. One pig, and a hardworking woman with a big heart. And an entire community is better for it.

With that in mind, let’s make sure hunger isn’t a part of anyone’s routine today. Please give generously. Thanks!



RAISING *animals*; GROWING *communities*.

PG 3

MOMENT FOR MISSION: YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT

SCRIPTURE READING: MATTHEW 14:15-21 (NRSV)

That is such a powerful scripture. When I hear it, I imagine Jesus looking me right in the eye and repeating the phrase again: ***“YOU give them something to eat.”***

That scripture especially resonates with me as we’re preparing to walk in the CROP Hunger Walk.

This would be a good time to tell the congregation why walking in a CROP Hunger Walk is important to you. The members of the congregation will be inspired to hear your passion.

You give them something to eat.

By walking in the CROP Hunger Walk, you’re helping someone like Ismael Solis provide food for their family. Ismael lives in an area of the Dominican Republic where the population of fish in the river is disappearing. Fishermen there work hard, but it’s not paying off...and families are going hungry.

When he was talking about fish, Ismael said, “This is one of the most important foods we can eat, but we aren’t eating enough and our health is not that good.”

That’s where we come in.

Because we walk, Ismael is now taking classes at a CROP Hunger Walk-supported Fish Training Center. He’s learning how to start a fish pond at his house with just a few fish. Those fish will quickly multiply, and soon Ismael’s family will be able to eat their fill. And the training center works with families to help repopulate the river, meaning more food for everyone.

Sound familiar?

Jesus said ***“you give them something to eat”*** and by walking in our CROP Hunger Walk, that’s what you’re doing.

Every step you take is an acknowledgement that hunger exists. It’s also an acknowledgement that, together, we have enough for those who are hungry.

And all ate and were filled.

Please join me in the CROP Hunger Walk and you can give them something to eat. Please give generously.



RAISING *animals*; GROWING *communities*.

PG 4

YOUTH MOMENT FOR MISSION: ONE HASHTAG THAT'S CHANGING THE WORLD

What was the last hashtag you used?

Maybe it was #picoftheday, #nofilter or #ThrowbackThursday, or let's be honest, I'm probably not cool enough to know which ones you all prefer to use...

That's not really the point of this though... there's one hashtag that's changing the world. That's #CROPHungerWalk.

Our congregation is participating in this year's CROP Hunger Walk. Teenagers – just like you – started these walks over 50 years ago because they were motivated to make a difference.

But what difference does the CROP Hunger Walk make? For someone like Ramona in the Dominican Republic, it allowed her to invest in change for her community many years ago. She grew up seeing hunger hurt her community. It's not a future she wanted for her children, her grandchildren... ANYONE. So she asked for just one small pig.

CROP Hunger Walkers helped put that pig in Ramona's care. Now, she has dozens of healthy pigs! These pigs are a source of food for her family. Not only that, but she can sell these pigs at market for income and use the manure to cultivate nutrient-rich soil for growing crops! With the money she's earned, she's even opened a grocery shop so her community has close access to all sorts of affordable food.

Ramona is sharing her gifts with her grandson Roniel and her neighbors. She knows that ending hunger takes hard work, compassion and some investment. And she knows that a healthier future for kids like Roniel only comes when someone steps up.

We recently caught up with Ramona and asked her what she would say to CROP Hunger Walkers in the United States. That's when she said something that'll brighten your #instamood. We hear it time and time again from CROP Hunger Walk communities.
"People in this community aren't looking for handouts," she said. "They want to work. They want someone to teach them how to work in a way that will help their families. That's what they really need."

That's something that walking in the CROP Hunger Walk makes possible every day. In this case, all it took was one pig. One pig, and a hardworking woman with a big heart. So next time you're on Instagram or whatever social media you're using, remember to use #CROPHungerWalk and tell your friends how you're walking for a world where there's #enough4all.



RAISING *animals*; GROWING *communities*.

PG 5

SERMON STARTER: FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 PETER 4:10

What does it mean to be a steward? In 1 Peter 4:10, we're reminded that our gifts should be shared with others because we're stewards of God's grace. That sounds important...but what does it mean?

"Steward" is written in Greek here as *oikonomos*. It's closely related to our current word for "economics," and it's historically tied to how we each manage finances. As a first step in being a steward, we acknowledge that all we have and all we are comes from God. We are not the owners of our "personal" funds. Part of that acknowledgment means that we have a responsibility to share each gift and blessing we enjoy so that the needs of all are met.

I want to share a story with you about Ramona because she's an inspiring example of what happens when we let go of the concept of "my" stuff, "my" money, "my" gifts, "my" time.

Through the CROP Hunger Walk, congregations like ours were able to share - or steward - funds with Ramona's community in the Dominican Republic. Part of that meant Ramona could enroll in a CWS-supported pig farming program. It was a totally new venture for her. It meant spending precious time and energy learning something that was out of her norm. She directed "her" time, "her" energy, and "her" routines to something new.

Why? It's an echo of our Scripture today: she knew that many children and families in her community struggled with hunger... and she also knew she could do something about it. She wanted to use the gifts she'd received to serve others.

When she received her first piglet, her husband was skeptical. It was just so small – what difference could it make? **No**, Ramona said. ***Let me raise it. I can make it grow.***

Talk about being a steward. Under her watchful eye, Ramona's small pig grew. And had babies. And those babies grew. And now, Ramona is running a successful pig farm that's inspiring and helping her community, her kids and her grandkids. She's sharing these pigs and training her neighbors, so there are new farms springing up around the community. Kids have healthier futures, and local markets have more food options. Hunger is being pushed out. If we held on to the gifts we thought we owned, none of this would be possible. We would clutch "our" gifts, Ramona would clutch "hers," and the situation would be painfully status quo.

Our Scripture today challenges our instinct to hide and stash gifts for ourselves. "Each of you should use ***whatever*** gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." Your support of Church World Service and the CROP Hunger Walk is an act of stewardship. It is an act of letting go of ownership. It's an act of sharing gifts. And when you participate in this act, good gifts multiply for neighbors like Ramona – changing lives, improving communities and anointing future stewards.

Thank you!

COMMISSIONING OF WALKERS: SHARED BLESSINGS

LEADER We support and give thanks for all who are walking today in our [name of community] CROP Hunger Walk. You represent all of us as you walk to share our blessings with brothers and sisters in need around the world.

PEOPLE We have been blessed.

LEADER God has given to each of us many gifts, blessings and talents – none earned, none deserved. That is why in faith we acknowledge that all that we have, all that we are, all that we shall ever be, is a gift from God – a gift of which we are but stewards.

PEOPLE We will strive to be good stewards of the gifts we have received.

A WALKER When I can say: “I have a home,”

PEOPLE We say: “Let us walk so that all may have safe shelter.”

A SPONSOR When I can say: “I have food,”

PEOPLE We say: “Let us walk so that none in our world will go hungry.”

A YOUTH When I can say: “I have plenty to drink,”

PEOPLE We say: “Let us walk so that none shall thirst.”

AN ADULT When I can say: “I have employment and a livelihood,”

PEOPLE We say: “Let us walk so that others might be able to provide for themselves and their families.”

A TEACHER When I can say: “I have gone to school and now teach others,”

PEOPLE We say: “Let us walk so that schools might be available to children everywhere.”

LEADER We love the Lord our God...

ALL With all our heart, soul, mind and strength and our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

SCRIPTURE & FAITH FILLED QUESTIONS

1 PETER 4:10-11 (NIV)

¹⁰Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.

What is your most prized accomplishment? How did you achieve that accomplishment? Who had to exist and provide some contribution in time, body, wealth or spirit to have made it possible for you to have that valued accomplishment?

LUKE 6:38 (NLT)

³⁸Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.

Have you ever given away something that you cherished because someone else wanted or needed it? How did it feel? Do you feel blessed when you bless others?

ROMANS 12:10-13 (GNT)

¹⁰Love one another warmly as Christians, and be eager to show respect for one another. ¹¹Work hard and do not be lazy. Serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion. ¹²Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times. ¹³Share your belongings with your needy fellow Christians, and open your homes to strangers.

How do you handle difficult times? Who has come to your aid in times of trouble? Have you ever welcomed a stranger into your home?

MATTHEW 14:15-21 (NRSV)

¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹Then 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. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Have you ever been nervous to share something (food, funds, time) because you're afraid you won't have enough for your own needs? How do you decide if you have enough to share? How do you want to be more faithful in your sharing?

ECCLESIASTES 3:12-13 (NRSV)

¹²I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; ¹³moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.

Think about what you ate and drank this week. Think about the ways you worked this week, and how much time you spent doing that. How much time did you spend time thinking about food, water and work as gifts? What do you enjoy about these gifts? Do they sometimes feel like obligations?

HEBREWS 13:16 (NRSV)

¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

What does sacrifice look like in your life? How do you make time throughout your day to consciously think about doing good?