

Our Story

- Read and discuss Leviticus 19:1-10 and Genesis 1:27 with your family.
 - ◆ Discuss in what ways we are created in the image of God. Also discuss when and why you are present to the face of God in others, especially those who are poor and in need.
 - ◆ Discuss the personal stories and list of facts.
- Although war and natural disasters cause most hunger emergencies, long-term malnutrition is caused by poverty and powerlessness. If people had resources, such as land or money, they would grow or buy food. If they had personal and political power, they would demand that their governments help them get on their feet. Discuss what we can do to help reduce poverty and powerlessness in our communities, nation and world.
- Look up www.mazon.org, www.secondharvest.org and www.bread.org to learn more about hunger and what you can do.
- Pray as a family, as a community, together three times, in English or Hebrew:

פּוֹתַחַ אֶת־יָדְךָ וּמִשְׁבִּיעַ לְכָל־חַי רָצוֹן:

Poteyach et Yadecha umasbiya lechol chai ratzon

You open Your hand, and Your favor sustains *all* the living.

Uniquely cooperative effort by MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, African Methodist Episcopal Women's Missionary Society, American Baptist Churches USA, America's Second Harvest, Bread for the World Institute, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Reformed Church, Church World Service, Community of Christ, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, The Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America World Hunger Program, Franciscan Friars, Good Ground Press/Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Heifer International, Maryland Province of the Jesuits, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., Presbyterian Hunger Program, Reformed Church in America, Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Committee on Relief, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



In God's Image

God's Story

Then God created humankind in God's image, in the image of God He created him, male and female God created them.

– Genesis 1:27 Editor's translation.

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to the whole Israelite community and say to them: You shall be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.... When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap all the way to the edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not pick your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I the Lord am your God.

– Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-10

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וַיִּבְרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הָאָדָם
אֱלֹהִים בָּרָא בְּצַלְמוֹ בְּעֶלְמ
אֶתוֹ זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה בָּרָא אֹתָם:

וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר:
דַּבֵּר אֶל כָּל עֵדוּת בְּנֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם
קְדוּשִׁים תִּהְיוּ כִּי קָדוֹשׁ
אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם:

וּבְקִצְרוֹכֶם אֶת קְצִיר אֲרָצְכֶם
לֹא תִכְלֶה פְּאֵת שְׂדֵךְ לְקָצֹר
וּלְקַט קְצִירְךָ לֹא תִלְקֹט:
וּכְרֹמֶךָ לֹא תַעֲלִל וּפְרֹט בְּרֹמֶךָ
לֹא תִלְקֹט לְעֵנִי וּלְגַר תַּעֲזֹב
אֹתָם אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם:



Some people prefer "Adonai" or "Eternal" as a translation in lieu of "Lord."

Personal Stories

A Voice from Pakistan

We poor people are invisible to others – just as blind people cannot see, they cannot see us. <www.worldbank.org/poverty/voices>

A Blind Woman from Moldova Speaks

For a poor person everything is terrible – illness, humiliation, shame. We are cripples; we are afraid of everything; we depend on everyone. No one needs us. We are like garbage that everyone wants to get rid of. <www.worldbank.org/poverty/voices>

Lela from the United States Speaks

We get our food from the supermarket and the Beth El Mission. We travel three miles to get our food, but when we are out of gas we cannot go. If we had more money, I would buy more meats and fresh vegetables. We do not have enough money to pay our bills and buy enough food. We get no help from the government. Sometimes I get a bag of food from the mission.

We are going through a time now when we do not have enough food to eat. That's why I came to Beth El Mission. The biggest problem our family is facing is that we need more fresh food and medical help. The one thing I would change to make my life better is to have enough money to pay my bills, and good food in my home. Hunger Action Leadership Team, *I've Seen Hunger in My Community, and It Looks Like This*, Tampa Bay, Florida



A Ten-Year-Old from Gabon Speaks

When I leave for school in the mornings I don't have any breakfast. At noon there is no lunch, in the evening I get a little supper, and that is not enough. So when I see another child eating, I watch him, and if he doesn't give me something I think I'm going to die of hunger.

<www.worldbank.org/poverty/voices>

Hunger Stories¹

each number represents
a human story

- Millennium Development Goal (MDG) #1: Halve the proportion of people in poverty and hunger. More than a billion people still live on the local equivalent of less than US \$1 a day, but the number of undernourished people is declining.² <<http://hdr.undp.org>>
- There is enough food today to feed all people in the world with a minimally nutritious diet, and likely will continue to be enough until the year 2020. <www.bread.org>
- Undernourishment in developing countries has, overall, decreased almost 30 percent since 1980, but about 800 million people are still malnourished. <www.fao.org>
- Underweight (malnutrition) remains the leading cause of disease and death in the world. At the same time, there are more than 1 billion adults in the world who are overweight, about half a million of whom die from obesity-related diseases every year. <www.who.org/int/en>
- More than 33 million people, including 13 million children, live in households in the United States that experience hunger or are at risk of hunger. <www.fao.org>
- The effects of undernutrition are:
 - Impaired physical development – low weight and/or height for age
 - Increased susceptibility to illness
 - Impaired mental development, leading to such things as slow learning, short attention span
 - Lethargy; low work productivity
 - An underdeveloped human potential for self and world
- Hunger could be cut in half in the United States and worldwide by 2015 for seven cents per American per day. <www.bread.org>



¹ Additional facts, updates, Web links, stories and educational materials at www.hungernomore.org.

² Millennium Development Goal targets for 2015, set by the world's leaders in September 2000.