

Serving Hope on Global Hunger Sunday

A Global Hunger Sunday Study for Children

Study Overview

As the 2024 Global Hunger Sunday approaches, we eagerly embark on a journey to serve hope through love and good deeds—inspired by the commands and example of Jesus. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to love our neighbor, demonstrating love, generosity and encouragement. This is the essence of our mission on Global Hunger Sunday.

Your church's gifts on Global Hunger Sunday equip Send Relief partners working around the world. During this study, we will focus on partners in the United States, Mozambique, Venezuela, Ethiopia, Thailand and Ukraine. Their endeavors not only provide meals but also bring the hope of the gospel.

Weekly Topics:

Week 1: Loving your neighbor (Mark 12:29-31)

Week 2: Living generously (Hebrews 13:16)

Week 3: Feeding the hungry (Matthew 25:35)

Week 4: Serving Hope (Colossians 3:17)

Children will grasp the reality that, while some parents pack daily lunches for their kids, others can't afford to provide any food to their children. They will learn that through praying and giving, they play a vital role in alleviating this harsh reality of world hunger. They will be inspired to create a plan to make a difference by giving or serving.

Prepare for the Study

- For the promotion of Global Hunger Sunday, explore resources at GlobalHungerRelief.org that will enhance the learning experience for your church. There you will find stories, children's activities, prayer guides and more.
- Work with church leaders to plan aspects of the study, such as scheduling, scope and promotion. You may choose to do the study as a special event or incorporate it into existing Sunday school or Vacation Bible School curriculum.
- Publicize the study through church bulletins, social media, churchwide announcements, newsletters and other mediums.
- Ask Sunday School classes and church members to pray for the study outcome. Pray individuals will be inspired as they learn about mission efforts in the United States, Mozambique, Venezuela, Ethiopia, Thailand and Ukraine, and will eagerly support those who are serving through Send Relief.

Prepare for the Lesson

- Read through the lesson plan and become familiar with it.
- Acquire a world map. Display it in a prominent place. Throughout the lessons, children will locate the United States, Mozambique, Venezuela, Ethiopia, Thailand and Ukraine on the map. If needed, this can also be displayed digitally through a projector or screen.
- Make copies of the two coloring sheets and download the food-matching PowerPoint slides found at [GlobalHungerRelief.org](https://www.globalhungerrelief.org). The coloring sheets can be provided as take-home material or used to fill in time during class as needed.
- Provide a pencil and markers or crayons for each child.
- Purchase index cards for use in the reflection activities at the end of each lesson.

Week 1 Bible Study: Loving Your Neighbor

“The most important [command], answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:29-31 NIV).

Materials needed

- Index cards
- World map

Welcome (10 min)

After all the children have arrived, share the below message, tailoring as needed to make it your own.

Welcome explorers! Over the upcoming weeks, we’re going on an adventure to discover the power of love, prayer and generosity together.

We will be learning about the incredible work of Send Relief in the United States, Mozambique, Venezuela, Ethiopia, Thailand and Ukraine. These missionaries and partners are providing hunger relief to children and families in need.

As we gather, we’ll lift our voices in prayer for these missionaries. Then, we’ll come together to collect a special offering for Global Hunger Relief. This offering directly supports our Send Relief partners and their efforts to bring hope and meals to hungry people.

During our time together, we’ll locate these six countries on the map, including our own, and take a virtual trip to each country. Our focus is on serving hope, teaching you how your prayers and gifts equip Send Relief missionaries to provide more than just meals – they provide hope.

Note: If you want to learn and share more about Global Hunger Sunday, feel free to explore globalhungerrelief.org for more information.

Learning Goal

To understand Jesus’ command to love the Lord and love our neighbors.

Discussion (15 -20 min)

This week’s study is centered around Mark 12:29-31: “The most important [command], answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” Ask a student to read this verse out loud to the group.

Begin with a discussion on the importance of loving God and the commandment to love our neighbors. When we love God with all that we are, we begin to also love the people around us. Ask children for examples of showing love to their classmates at school, friends at church or siblings. Examples might include being kind to the outcasts at school, helping siblings with chores and letting someone else go first in line.

Now, ask children if loving your “neighbor” also applies to people across the world. How can we show love to people all around the world? One way is by providing food to people who need it. Use the information below to begin a discussion on meeting hunger needs.

Hunger:

(Be sensitive to the reality that some of the children present may be dealing with food insecurity and hunger in their homes.)

Ask children about a time when they felt hungry. Maybe it was while waiting for a parent to make dinner or maybe it was after a long day at school. What was their response to hunger? Were they able to focus on school or do other tasks?

Discuss hunger as the physical discomfort caused by lack of food, leading to the understanding that many around the world face this daily, which impacts their day-to-day activities, health and feelings of hopelessness.

Love your neighbor:

- For many boys and girls, hunger is more than a growl in your belly before dinner. They go entire days without eating because they don't have enough money or access to food.
- 44 million people face hunger every day in the U.S. – our own country! Note: you might want to contextualize 44 million for your students using a local sports venue or your church building. An example could be, “That means we could fill up xyz university's football stadium 550 times full of hungry people in the USA.”
- Explain how if we were part of the 828 million people around the world dealing with chronic hunger, we would want someone to love us by showing kindness, compassion and generosity.
- On Global Hunger Sunday, we can love our neighbor and show generosity and compassion through giving. Explain how our prayers and gifts can support missionaries in providing meals and hope to those suffering from chronic hunger in the U.S. and in other countries like Ethiopia.

Children's Story (15-20 min)

Before reading the story, locate Ethiopia and the United States on your world map.

In a country far away, Ethiopia, there are children just like you. Ethiopia has suffered from a severe drought. That means they have had very little rain and cannot grow food or feed animals. Many parents in Ethiopia are unable to provide food for their families, but your gifts are making a huge difference!

Send Relief partners are on a special mission. They know that, by sharing food with 400 Christian families, they can create a chain reaction of love and kindness. These families don't just keep the food to themselves; they share it with others, drawing families who don't know Jesus into the project.

But it isn't easy. The region faces hardships. Locusts buzz around, a pandemic hurt the local economy, drought parches the land and civil war casts a shadow. But, Send Relief partners

believe God's Word: "love your neighbor as you love yourself." Last year, because of generous gifts and prayers, the missionaries were able to celebrate an incredible moment. During a food distribution, 128 people heard the gospel and became fellow believers in Christ! Because churches like yours loved their neighbors across the world in Ethiopia, the kingdom of God is expanding.

Now, let's travel across the ocean to the busy streets of New York City. Here, another group of partners works tirelessly at Send Relief's New York City Ministry Center.

The missionaries in New York have a unique approach. They don't just provide meals; they create a safe place to build friendships. They understand that sometimes, a warm community dinner means more than just nourishment – it means family.

What can we learn from these incredible missionaries? They show us that we can make a difference too, right from where we are. We can pray for them, just like we pray for our friends. We can give gifts to support their work, just like we share toys with those we care about. Together, we can make a big difference, one act of love at a time. And as we gather on Global Hunger Sunday, let's remember these stories of love and remember to love our neighbors just like the Send Relief missionaries and partners in Ethiopia and New York.

Reflection/Prayer Activity (15 min):

Encourage children to think of a way they can "love their neighbor" in the coming week. Ask them to write it on an index card, along with the verse of the week (Mark 12:29-31). They can display it somewhere in their room as a reminder. Remember to ask them about this next week and celebrate the ways they did so.

Week 2 Bible Study: Living Generously

“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased” (Hebrews 13:16, NIV).

Materials needed

- Cookies or another snack (with enough for everyone)
- Index cards
- World map

Welcome (10 min)

After all the children have arrived, share the message below, tailoring as needed to make it your own.

Welcome to another week of our Global Hunger Sunday study! Your presence adds joy to our exploration of love, prayer and generosity.

Last week talked about God’s greatest commandments: love the Lord with all your heart, soul and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself. Did anybody find opportunities to love their neighbor this week?

For today’s lesson, we’re delving deeper into the incredible work of Send Relief partners in Venezuela and Mozambique. These are the men and women driven by love, compassion, and a heartfelt commitment to helping others.

Learning Goal:

To understand the significance of helping others, as reflected in Hebrews 13:16, and recognize how our prayers and gifts support missionaries in Venezuela and Mozambique.

Discussion (15 -20 min)

This week’s study revolves around Hebrews 13:16, “And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” Read the verse aloud to begin the time of discussion.

Pull out your cookie and begin eating it. When the children look confused or ask for one, jokingly ask, “Oh, should I share with you all? Does this look good?”

As you dive into the discussion, give each student their cookie. Begin the conversation by discussing the impact of sharing with others. Ask students if they have ever had someone share or be generous with them. How did it make them feel? How does it feel when someone does not share with you?

The author of Hebrews tells us that God is pleased when we give sacrificially and share with others. Many times, when we share with the people around us, we actually feel more satisfied and content! Continue the discussion of generosity using the points below.

Generosity:

- Generosity is a willingness to give help or support, especially more than is usual or expected.

- You can be generous in many ways: with your money, your time, your skills or your kindness. For example, if your friend is struggling in math class, you might generously spend time tutoring them.
- What would be your reaction if someone walked into this room and gave you free tickets to see your favorite sports team or musical artist? That would be amazing enough – but what if the tickets were the very best seats? That’s generosity; giving more than is usual or expected.
- Can anybody think of how Jesus was the perfect example of generosity? (Answer: He loved us so much that He was willing to give His life for us.)

Draw connections between generosity and the valuable gifts and prayers the children will offer for Global Hunger Sunday that equip Send Relief to bless these communities.

Children’s Story

Before reading the story, locate Venezuela and Mozambique on your world map.

In Venezuela, a land filled with vibrant colors and warm hearts, Send Relief partners are on a mission to share the Bread of Life (another name for Jesus). In this country, the cost of simple, everyday items like eggs and bread has risen drastically because of a struggling economy.

There, a Send Relief project taught 150 participants how to make bread. Participants were able to start their own baking business and make money to provide for their families. Generosity from people like you not only shared breadmaking skills but also the life-changing Bread of Life, Jesus Christ. When we share what we have with others, it opens opportunities to share about the love of Jesus.

Through this endeavor, families are not only equipped with skills but also encounter a profound change. As the aroma of freshly baked bread fills the air, the Holy Spirit works in mysterious ways, touching the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of each participant.

In Mozambique, a group of pastors needed a way to provide food for their families. Send Relief partners gifted them with chickens! Now, the pastors are learning how to raise the chickens. They are able to sell chicken eggs at the local market and use the money to take care of their families. The pastors are able to focus on leading their churches without worrying where their next meal will come from; as a result, the churches are growing, and new leaders are stepping up to start more churches!

Reflection/Prayer Activity (15 min):

Have the children write today’s verse (Hebrews 13:16) on an index card. Remind them that one way they can be generous is through their prayers. Underneath the verse, have them write places they have studied so far: Ethiopia, New York City, Venezuela, and Mozambique. Ask the students to pray for missionaries in these places throughout the week, using the index card as a reminder.

Week 3 Bible Study: Feeding the Hungry

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in” (Matthew 25:35, NIV).

Materials needed

- Index cards
- World map

Welcome (10 min)

After all the children have arrived, share the message below, tailoring as needed to make it your own.

Welcome back to another week of our Global Hunger Sunday study! Last week, we talked about generosity. Was anybody generous with their time, money, prayers or other ways since we last met? (Allow children time to respond.)

As we dive into today’s lesson, get ready to uncover the remarkable work Send Relief partners are doing in Thailand and Ukraine. They are on a mission to feed the hungry, guide future leaders and bring hope in times of need.

Learning Goal:

To comprehend the significance of feeding the hungry, as reflected in Matthew 25:35, and recognize how our prayers and gifts support missionaries in Thailand and Ukraine.

Discussion (15 -20 min)

This week’s study revolves around Matthew 25:35, “For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger, and you invited me in.” Ask a child to look up the verse in their Bible and read it out loud.

Explain the reality that many children and families around the world are hungry and don’t have access to basic necessities like clean water. Many times, it is because of circumstances outside of their control like war, famine or a failing economy.

It can be difficult to understand what it’s like to not know where your next meal will come from. Ask children to imagine waking up one morning without any food in their refrigerator or pantry. Imagine that their parents had no way to buy more food. How would they feel? It might feel scary or lonely. (Note: some children in your group might struggle with food insecurity; be sensitive to that in this discussion.)

While situations like this are sad, as Christians, we can make a difference. Jesus commands us to feed the hungry. What are ways your group can do that today? Brainstorm ideas together. Some ideas for starting are below but allow them to be creative!

- Host a food drive: partner with a local nonprofit to identify food needs in the community. Encourage your church’s small groups to purchase those items.
- Volunteer: sign up to serve with an organization that provides meals to the hungry. Many times, sharing a meal with people in need produces empathy and compassion.

- Give: start a fundraiser for the Global Hunger Sunday offering – you might try a bake sale or girls vs. boys competition. You'll equip Send Relief to serve people all around the world, including the countries you have talked about in these lessons.

Emphasize the impact that children can make for the kingdom of God. We don't have to wait until we're older to make a difference!

Then, ask students to collectively choose one of their brainstorming ideas to put into action. Come up with a plan together for taking a next step. That might include research, talking to parents or creating signs to let the church know about their project.

Children's Story:

Before reading the story, locate Thailand and Ukraine on your world map.

In Thailand, our Send Relief partners are spreading love in places like Doi Saket and Mae Lae Noi. Can you find those cities on a map? Here, churches are following Jesus' command to feed the hungry by blessing students in local schools.

Two local churches have done amazing things through your gift to Send Relief. They are providing school lunches for students who can't afford it! Through that partnership, pastors are sharing the gospel with the students and forming relationships with families. Let's pray for hearty meals and genuine conversations.

Now, in Ukraine – we are helping those who have been impacted by war, starting churches to feed food and faith. In Poland, they're helping Ukrainian friends who had to leave their homes because of the conflict. Many of these people left their homes with no food and few clothes. Your gifts can provide a warm meal to them.

In a city near the border, our partners are serving warm meals and sharing food baskets. We must pray they stay safe and keep spreading kindness in these difficult situations.

High-fives to our friends in Thailand and Ukraine for showing us how to share love and kindness, just like Matthew 25:35 says – helping when people are hungry or need a friend.

Reflection/Prayer Activity (15 min):

Take a moment to pray for Send Relief partners in Thailand and Ukraine.

On the index cards, invite students to write a prayer asking God to bless their efforts to make a difference for the hungry people around them.

Week 4 Bible Study: Serving Hope

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Colossians 3:17 NIV)

Welcome (10 min)

After all the children have arrived, share the message below, tailoring as needed to make it your own.

Welcome to our final week of the Global Hunger Sunday study!

We've been on an amazing journey exploring love, prayer and generosity. We've learned about the work of Send Relief partners in six countries: the United States, Mozambique, Venezuela, Ethiopia, Thailand and Ukraine. Can you find them on the map?

As we wrap up, let's remember why we started this adventure. God commands us to love our neighbors, give generously and feed the hungry. And right now, 828 million people around the world struggle with food insecurity.

But here's the cool part - through our prayers and gifts, we can make a difference. Hope is needed everywhere - from our city to small villages across the globe.

In all these places, through Global Hunger Sunday, we serve more than meals; we serve hope. So, as we work to meet needs, let's do it all in the name of Jesus.

Special Activity (15 min)

Spend time doing the dish matching game on the Global Hunger Relief website GlobalHungerRelief.org/puzzle. If you don't have internet access, download the corresponding PowerPoint before class ([linked here](#)) to show children. It will be a fun reminder of the countries they have learned about during the study.

Learning Goal

To understand the impact of serving hope and encouraging others, recognizing the importance of our contributions through prayer, giving and love on Global Hunger Sunday.

Discussion (25 min)

We've learned about loving our neighbor, helping others and feeding the hungry. Now, it's all about putting those awesome qualities into action. Our Scripture, Colossians 3:17, tells us to do everything in the name of Jesus while giving thanks. Invite a student to read the verse out loud.

As we serve the hungry, it's important to remember the reason we do it: Jesus! We serve others because Jesus set a perfect example of service and generosity for us by dying on the cross for our sins. When we are generous with our time and money, it points people to God and opens doors to share about His love.

Encourage children to think about all the places they've been virtually visiting - the United States, Mozambique, Venezuela, Ethiopia, Thailand and Ukraine. Each of these places needs hope. More than just meals, they need the kind of hope that comes from knowing someone cares.

Take time to further develop your group plan for serving the hungry - whether it is through giving or serving. Encourage students to find ways to involve the entire church in their plan.

Reflection/ Prayer Activity (10 min)

As they focus on serving hope, encourage your group to close their eyes and think about the places we've learned about – the United States, Mozambique, Venezuela, Ethiopia, Thailand and Ukraine. Ask them to choose one country to specifically pray for in the coming weeks. Write that country name on an index card along with the weekly verse.

End your time in prayer. Ask God to bless your efforts to help people in the name of Jesus. Pray for each country we've learned about and the missionaries serving there.