

HARVEST – A FAITHFUL GOD!

Here is a bag of goodies that comes from across the world, things that we enjoy.

Where do they come from?

Banana – from a tree.

Coffee/tea – from a bush.

Rice – from a paddy field.

Strawberry Jam – the fruit from a plant.

Carrots – are grown in the ground.

Chocolate – from beans that grow on a tree.

All of these foodstuffs grow somewhere on a tree, on a bush, in the ground.

What will they need to make them grow?

Sunshine

Rain

Fertiliser, - but the fertiliser can only help them to grow better; only sunshine and rain can make the plants grow.

God gives us the rain, and the sun; the Bible tells us that God made the sun and the rain as well as all the other things in the world; they are His, He created them and He gives them to us so that we can enjoy His world and that we can have food to eat.

It is easy for us to get things in the supermarket or the shop, but the things we buy there are all grown for us by someone else, here or in another part of the world. Wherever someone grows something like this, they depend on God giving rain and sun to make things grow.

The Bible tells us, either in Genesis 8:22 with which we began the service or in Psalm 136 which tells us over and over again that God's love endures forever, that God will keep giving to us all that we need and will never fail, never stop; there will always be a harvest in the world, there will always be food for us to eat; so we say thank you to God that all of these things here are given to us because He loves us; His love endures forever. We celebrate harvest and as we do that we celebrate God's love and God's faithfulness.

MR WORRY!

Who is this? Do you know his story?

If it rained Mr Worry worried that roof would leak; if it was sunny he worried that his plants might die; if he went shopping he worried that the shops would be shut, if they were not, he worried that he was spending too much money; going home, he worried that he might have dropped something from his bag, when he got home he worried that he'd bought too much!

One day he went for a walk, and as he went he worried that might go too far and not be able to get home; then he worried that he would not go far enough to get enough exercise.

He met Mr Bump and said to him: "I'm very worried about you – you might fall over and hurt yourself.

He met Mr Noisy and said: "I'm very worried about you! You might lose your voice

He met Mr Greedy and said: "I'm very worried about you. You might eat too much and be sick!" "Impossible!" said Mt Greedy.

Then Mr Worry met a wizard who said to him: "Go home and write down everything that you're worried about and I'll make sure that none of these things ever happen!" Mr Worry went home and did it and for the first time in a long time he smiled; he had the best night's sleep in years; he had nothing to worry about now!
For the whole of the next week, Mr Worry had nothing to worry about, but on Monday morning he was a worried man; "What's worrying you?" asked the wizard. "I don't have anything to worry about!"

What do we worry about? Here's a little questionnaire:

Your mobile phone is missing. What do you do?

- A Cry and feel sorry for yourself, convinced it's gone for ever. 'Why do these things always happen to me?'
- B Panic and turn your house upside down looking for it, worrying about all the texts you're missing.
- C Forget about it, sure it'll turn up sometime. You never use it anyway.
- D - Stay calm, call your phone company to report its loss and pray. It's a nuisance but God has helped you through worse situations.

Your friend seems to be avoiding you and you don't know why. Do you:

- A Assume you've done something to upset them and wonder if they'll ever forgive you.
- B Worry about what might be wrong and imagine all the worst case scenarios.
- C Ignore the situation. You've done nothing wrong so it's obviously their problem and they can sort it out.
- D Bring your concerns to God and ask him to show you how to make things right with your friend

God is a Father who loves us; we have already said that Harvest reminds us that God is faithful, that He never stops loving and caring for us and the world; we need to learn to trust Him and not worry about anything. God cares for us and gives us everything we need. Can we learn to trust?!

WHAT SHALL WE...?

Here are three questions that mean different things when asked in different places:

Eat? When do we ask that question? When making up a packed lunch box for school or work: what would you want to eat? Or we're having friends round for a meal, and we ask what will we have to eat? What do my friends like and not like? For a birthday party and we want to have special party food, we ask what will we have?

There are other parts of the world where people ask that question & it means something different; it means is there any food? Has the harvest happened or have the crops failed? If the crops have failed what else can we find to eat? There are people who scrape berries from the ground or such because that's all they can find to eat.

Drink? It is the same kind of question – arranging a wedding and we ask what shall we have to drink? The best champagne? We come in from the garden hot and thirsty, so what will we have to drink - tea, water, juice?

In Uganda, we heard earlier how some people have to walk miles to get water, down the hill and back up again and how they have now learned to do it differently, there is a water tank in their village to catch rain water and store it in their tank so that they have water in their village. There are lots of places where, when the rains don't come, people ask what will we have to drink? Sometimes the only water is where the cattle drink!

Wear? You get the idea by now; sometimes it is easy to know what to wear – school uniform, work uniform and we don't really have a choice. But there are other times: we're going out with pals, or to a party and we want to wear special things; or to go to the pictures, or a rugby match, or the beach – what shall I wear? We have different clothes, or shoes for different places and occasions

Some, who when their one pair of trousers wears out, are not sure where the next pair will come from; what then shall I wear? They have no money to go to market to buy clothes like that; they have no wardrobe, no heaps of shoes.

For people, trying to answer these three questions no matter where and how, Jesus tells us something special. He tells us that God cares for us and that we need not worry about these things. Do we spend hours trying to decide what to wear? We really shouldn't worry because we have a father in heaven who cares for us, who knows what we need and who wants to give good things to us. God cares for the birds, and gives them food to eat; God cares for the flowers and clothes them in some wonderful colours; so God will care for us and will give us all that we need for life, for everything.

When Jesus says 'don't worry' He is not being cheeky; He does understand that there are hard things that we all face from time to time; He also knows that we still need to make plans and plant seeds and grow crops. But He does want us to realise something very, very important – we can trust in God; God is a Father loves us and wants to help us in every way and nothing happens to us, but He knows – He wants us to trust in God and not to worry about what to eat, drink, wear; but instead He wants us to learn to trust God and love God.