

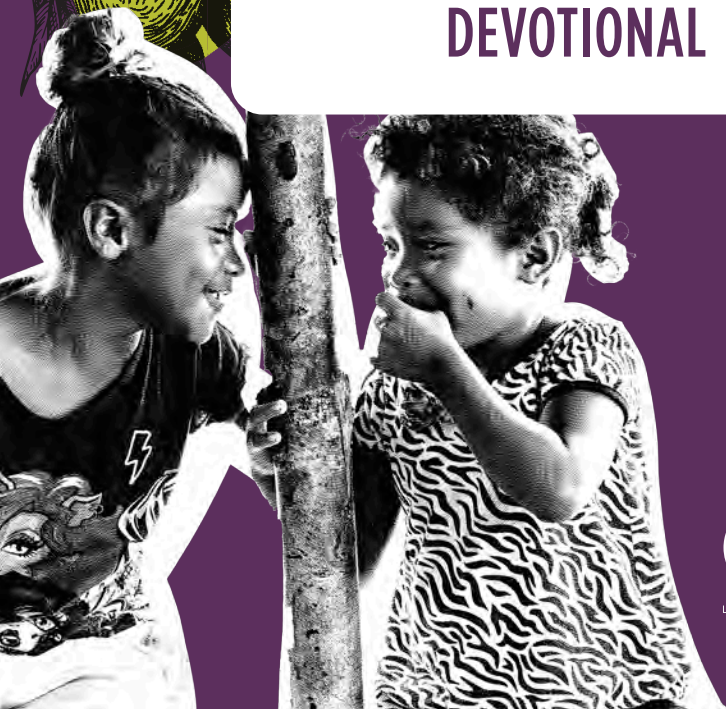


HUNGER FOR

GOOD

WORLD HUNGER 2021

DEVOTIONAL



 World  
Renew

LIVING JUSTICE • LOVING MERCY • SERVING CHRIST



# DEAR FRIEND,

**AS THE DIRECTORS OF WORLD RENEW, WE WANTED TO TAKE A MOMENT TO SAY** “welcome” and “thank you.” We have eagerly been awaiting your participation in the Hunger for Good initiative to address world hunger together in 2021. During the last several months, you have been on our hearts and in our minds as the World Renew team prepared these materials. We are thrilled to journey with you as you expand your understanding of global hunger and seek justice, a calling that God has placed on the hearts of all those who follow Jesus (Matthew 5:6).

In this booklet, you will find 6 passages of Scripture to engage and 6 stories of hunger to hold. We have designed this booklet for you to move at your own pace and life season: whether that is through 6 weeks of small group conversation with a group of friends, 6 family devotions before you share a meal with your kids, or 6 days of personal study and reflection. Throughout the booklet, you will find a number of questions to ponder, experiences to try, and activities to engage online. These resources are intended to push you both inward and outward. Through these 6 devotionals, we hope that you will not only commune with the Spirit of God but also connect with a deep hunger for good in your unique context.

**Thank you for taking the needs of the hungry to heart.** We send blessings to you, child of God. May you travel these pages confident in the deep love and abiding peace of God.

**CAROL BREMER-BENNETT**

Director, U.S.

**IDA KAASTRA-MUTOIGO**

Director, Canada



WELCOME



# HUNGER FOR

# FOOD



***DON'T FORGET,*** when it comes to engaging young minds and hearts on the issue of world hunger, we have even more resources like recipes, activities, and videos for kids to enjoy at

[worldrenew.net/WORLDFAMINECHURCHES](http://worldrenew.net/WORLDFAMINECHURCHES) (US)  
[worldrenew.ca/WORLDFAMINECHURCHES](http://worldrenew.ca/WORLDFAMINECHURCHES) (CAN)

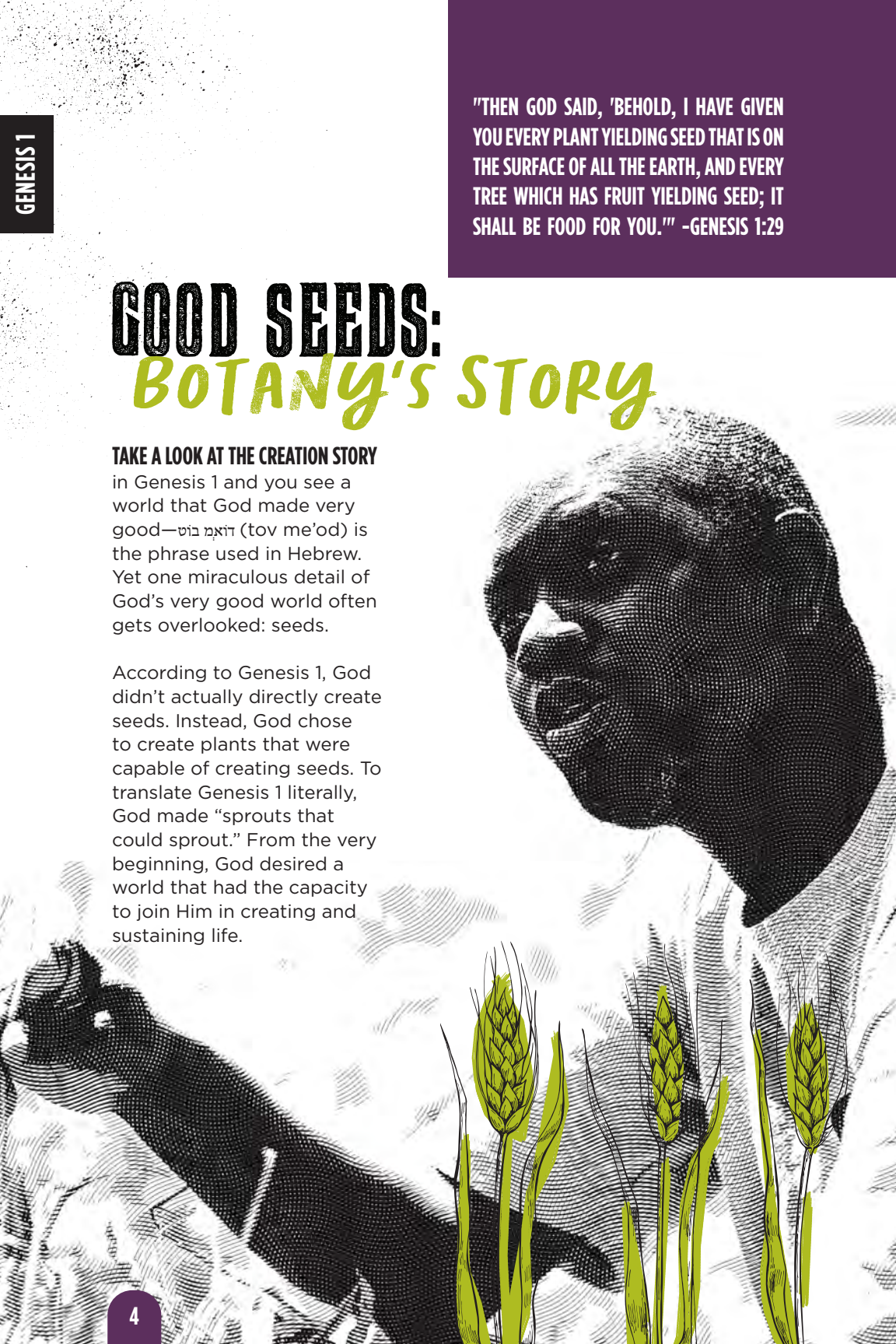
"THEN GOD SAID, 'BEHOLD, I HAVE GIVEN YOU EVERY PLANT YIELDING SEED THAT IS ON THE SURFACE OF ALL THE EARTH, AND EVERY TREE WHICH HAS FRUIT YIELDING SEED; IT SHALL BE FOOD FOR YOU.'" -GENESIS 1:29

# GOOD SEEDS: BOTANY'S STORY

## TAKE A LOOK AT THE CREATION STORY

in Genesis 1 and you see a world that God made very good—טוֹב מְאֹד (tov me'od) is the phrase used in Hebrew. Yet one miraculous detail of God's very good world often gets overlooked: seeds.

According to Genesis 1, God didn't actually directly create seeds. Instead, God chose to create plants that were capable of creating seeds. To translate Genesis 1 literally, God made "sprouts that could sprout." From the very beginning, God desired a world that had the capacity to join Him in creating and sustaining life.





As a beloved creature of God, you are also made to create good, just as you are made to depend upon God's creative earth.

Botany is a farmer who understands this truth well. Botany works for Good Nature Agro in Zambia, helping supply seeds to World Renew and the local Presbyterian Church. Through this partnership, World Renew prioritizes local farmers in order to help the communities of Zambia move from poverty to the middle class.

Botany's job is to organically test different varieties of legume seed, supplying World Renew program participants

with only the highest performing seeds, designed to bring a plentiful harvest in a short amount of time.

Once farmers working with World Renew yield a successful harvest, they get to sell their surplus at a fair market price, creating a just society and providing more seeds to sell to more farmers, sharing food and wealth across Zambia farm by farm.

Thanks to Botany, we remember that God often chooses the small things to spread His abundant goodness, like seeds that feed nations.

## practicing **GOOD**

*Take your experience deeper with these prompts intended for folks of all ages. Engage these topics with your kids, housemates, spouse, or friends.*

**REFLECT//** What small seeds has God given you today to help bring good into the world?

**ACT//** Take a notecard and write down a place where you are praying for new life in your story. Place your card somewhere you can see it to cultivate a spirit of prayer throughout your day. Maybe consider sharing that story with a friend as a way of planting hope for where God will meet you.



AND THE ONE ON WHOM  
SEED WAS SOWN ON THE  
GOOD SOIL, THIS IS THE  
MAN WHO HEARS THE  
WORD AND UNDERSTANDS  
IT -MATTHEW 13:23

## GOOD SOIL: MILON'S STORY

**IN MATTHEW 13, JESUS TELLS A STORY** about a sower. For many of us reading this story today, the profession of sowing seeds is a bit of a cultural leap: we understand the premise, but few of our hands have ever reached into a bag to scatter our own seed across the fields to grow our own food.





But in northern Bangladesh, Milon\* has lived experience to bring to her understanding of Matthew 13, placing the sower in a different light. Everyone in Milon's village knows that good soil takes hard work. Before World Renew offered training in Milon's village, the community struggled with crop yield because their soil had grown thin—stripped of nutrients from overuse. Now, through the sustainable farming methods Milon and others have learned, they have begun to replenish the soil.

Milon helps oversee the village composting pit, a place where they gather organic waste in order to create thick, rich soil for their fields. This soil is so full of nutrients that it looks like chocolate cake! As Milon and her community care for the soil, they have seen their crop yields greatly increase, offering enough to feed their village and even sell for profit.

**Milon's story shows us how a sower scattering seed on the road or among rocks or thorns is a sower who has failed to spend time with her soil.**

Through Milon we learn that one of Jesus' lessons in the Parable of the Sower is about the sowers who spend days removing rocks and thorns and weeks replenishing thin soil so the ground has the care and support it needs to receive seeds of hope. May we, like Milon, be patient and loving cultivators today.

*\*Milon's name has been changed to protect her identity.*



## practicing GOOD

*Take your experience deeper with these prompts intended for folks of all ages. Engage these topics with your kids, housemates, spouse, or friends.*

### REFLECT//

Composting is about processing things that died so they can feed soil. Spiritually speaking, composting requires that we process the deaths we have suffered in order to prepare our hearts to receive life.

Take some time to ponder the places where the soil in your own heart feels "thin". What loss might the Spirit of God be inviting you to name and grieve as you hope for new life?

### ACT//

Composting mindfully engages food and actively restores the earth. You can easily start your own composting pile with a lidded bin on your countertop for gathering organic waste: coffee grounds, banana peels, vegetable skins, tea leaves, etc. Once it fills, either empty your bin in a compost pile in your own yard or donate it to a local urban garden. Get started today with a simple 5 minute tutorial: [youtu.be/bGRUnDez1j4](https://youtu.be/bGRUnDez1j4)

# GOOD THIRST: MERLYN'S STORY

**THE WOMAN FROM SAMARIA IS BOLD** with Jesus, bringing before Him her questions, her story, and her thirst. Upon Jesus greeting her, the woman is wary. She sees a stranger, and not just any stranger, but a Jew. The Samaritan woman knows the stories that Jews and Samaritans trade back and forth about one another. She knows that most Jews would look at her with disgust and judgement.

However Jesus shows neither, and the woman discovers quickly He already knows everything about her. He knows that she has carried more than her share of heartbreak and loss. Perhaps this is why Jesus begins to speak with her about water that satisfies thirst.


The woman is quick in her exchanges with Jesus, telling Jesus she wants this water He offers. She might assume He is playing with her; her eyes perceiving that He clearly does not possess water to quench physical thirst. Or, perhaps she senses that He is speaking of a different kind of water.

Either way, Jesus keeps pushing the conversation deeper and the woman continues to respond by bringing up challenging topics like true worship, ethnic difference, and salvation. Eventually her comments prompt Jesus to reveal Himself to her as the Messiah for whom she so deeply thirsts.

**When the woman shares her longing honestly, Jesus reveals Himself as everything for which she longs.**

**“JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO HER, ‘EVERYONE WHO DRINKS OF THIS WATER WILL THIRST AGAIN; BUT WHOEVER DRINKS OF THE WATER THAT I WILL GIVE HIM SHALL NEVER THIRST...’” -JOHN 4:14-15**





Like the Samaritan woman, Merlyn believes water is precious. A participant in World Renew's programming in Honduras, Merlyn raises her children in an urban food desert. As a single mother with limited resources, Merlyn's life knows many challenges, and she brings her own questions, story, and thirst before God regularly. And like the Samaritan woman, one of the ways that God has chosen to come alongside Merlyn in her longing is through water.

Merlyn has learned to farm with World Renew's tunnel farming approach, made possible by water harvesters and a water storage tank. As a result, she and other women now harvest peppers, tomatoes, and other vegetables that help provide stability for her family.

Tunnel farming shields crops from the elements and traps the heat of the sun, extending the growing season and increasing production. It also uses less than 40% of the water, fertilizer and other resources required in traditional farming, making it the ideal technique for Merlyn's community and a steady reminder that even in the parched places of our lives, God hears us and has everything He requires to bring us nourishment.



## practicing Good

*Take your experience deeper with these prompts intended for folks of all ages. Engage these topics with your kids, housemates, spouse, or friends.*

**REFLECT//** What do you thirst for? Write a prayer before God about thirst.

**ACT//** Your world and Merlyn's world intersect in more ways than you might imagine. Take a deeper look at food deserts, tunnel farming, and the ways that climate change has precipitated water shortages in Honduras by visiting [worldrenew.net/WorldHunger](http://worldrenew.net/WorldHunger) or [worldrenew.ca/WorldHunger](http://worldrenew.ca/WorldHunger)

## GOOD LIGHT:

MCDONALD'S  
STORY

“BUT FOR YOU WHO FEAR MY NAME, THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL RISE WITH HEALING IN ITS WINGS; AND YOU WILL GO FORTH AND SKIP ABOUT LIKE CALVES FROM THE STALL.” -MALACHI 4:2

**THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT** were no strangers to setbacks, loss, fear, and disappointment. At the time of the prophet Malachi, Israel had been scattered across the Persian empire. No longer held together by a national identity or led by a king who shared their lineage and followed their God, the people were forced to question what community and faith meant in a context of exile.

While Nehemiah’s time as governor brought with it the opportunity for many Israelites to return and rebuild the walls and temple of Jerusalem, many struggled to follow God faithfully when it felt like God’s promises had been broken.

**Where in your story does it feel like God has broken a promise?**  
**How might God be waiting to meet you here?**

In response, Malachi speaks to the people with both admonition and hope. He reminds them of the tenets of their faith and the strength of God’s love. He strongly exhorts the people to remember that worship is not tied to feeling or circumstance; rather it is an expression of belief that God is good and will be faithful to His children. Malachi closes his message with an assurance that though these days appear dark, the light of God will shine forth—bringing healing, flourishing, and celebration.

That promise of God’s faithfulness is as true for His children today as it was in the Old Testament.

McDonald is a farmer who lives in Malawi and has found food security for his family through World Renew. In 2019, Malawi was devastated by one of the most deadly tropical storms ever to hit the continent of Africa. Cyclone Idai caused catastrophic damage through mudslides, killing over 1,000 people and leaving millions more without homes or livelihood. While McDonald and his family live in a region of Malawi where they were not directly threatened





by the storm's impact, they still heard the stories of loss and felt grief. "Why would God allow those who are already vulnerable to food scarcity and poverty to suffer such staggering loss?"

As World Renew staff help families process their trauma and rebuild from the cyclone, we find people discovering the same truth that Malachi shared with the Hebrew people: God brings redemption and restoration to those who have experienced harm. Not a single life devastated by Cyclone Idai, or facing hunger on a larger scale, is outside of God's care. When McDonald surveys the crops of peppers and beans and corn that he grows right outside of his home, he remembers that this produce depends upon the gracious faithfulness of God to bring the sun's light and gentle rains in their season. McDonald trusts in God's loving provision, and we can too.

## practicing GOOD

*Take your experience deeper with these prompts intended for folks of all ages. Engage these topics with your kids, housemates, spouse, or friends.*

**REFLECT//** Where is the healing light of God apparent in your story? Where do things still feel dark?

**ACT//** Did you know paper is an organic substance? Today, take a story that represents "death" in your life, tear it up, and add it to your compost. Feel free to get creative, pulling the story from your journal, a newspaper article, or even your reflection from above. Now watch in the coming weeks how this paper transforms into lush soil that brings life. In the same way, God hears your needs and your aches and will not be silent. He is active in our suffering, bringing deep and intimate care.

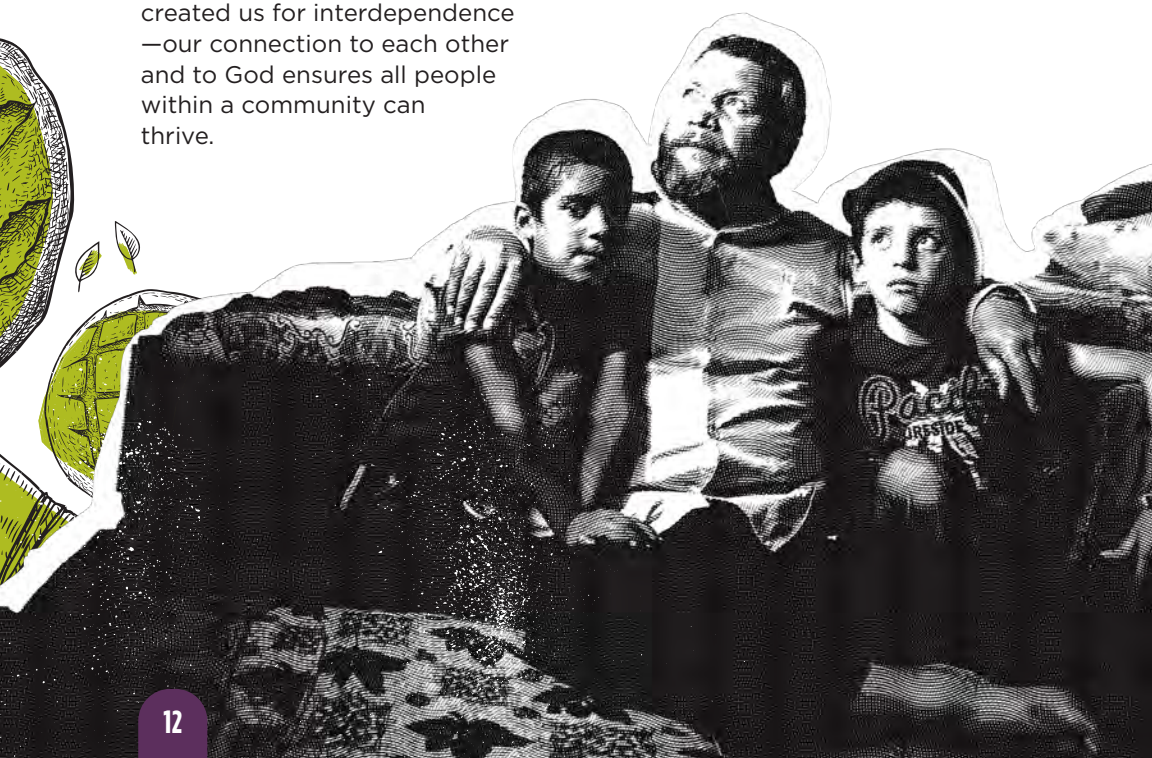
# GOOD PROVISION: HASSAN'S STORY

## WE'VE BEEN LEARNING ABOUT HOW

God provides: He gives us strengths and gifts to create good in the world, He teaches us to invest our time and cultivate relationships in order to ensure all people flourish, and He encourages us to be honest with our longings and to practice both faith and lament when we and others experience harm. In each of these aspects of provision, we see God has created us for interdependence—our connection to each other and to God ensures all people within a community can thrive.

However there are also times when God's children experience such extreme violence and dislocation that we require miraculous support. Think of the children of Israel wandering in the wilderness. With no home, no farm land, and no secure food sources, the people felt extreme vulnerability, and even fear. Their story was not unlike the story of millions of refugees around the world today, including Hassan.

Hassan lived with his family in peace and security until civil war broke out in their country. Like many civilians, his leg was badly injured in an attack, resulting in torn ligaments and producing an infection that ultimately left Hassan crippled. Since then, Hassan fled with his family, and they now live as refugees. Two years ago,





Hassan's wife, mother of his two sons, died of a heart attack. Now, Hassan is both primary caretaker and provider for his boys, facing fear each day over stable food and income due to the limitations of his disability and the lack of secure work for refugees.

As Hassan's family waits in hope for the day they can return to their home, the local church and World Renew have become the very hands of God. Hassan says, "The church here gives us food vouchers [through World Renew]. Thank God for this daily bread."

**In Exodus, God provided bread from heaven for his children in desperate need. Hassan's story reminds us that "bread from heaven" can also look like people around the world who are experiencing peace and stability joining in God's work to meet the needs of those suffering the impact of violence.**

For 10 years, Hassan has been searching for peace for his family. As followers of Jesus, we are called to faithfully care for our brothers and sisters like Hassan, nurturing their hope until God delivers them safely back home.



## practicing **GOOD**

*Take your experience deeper with these prompts intended for folks of all ages. Engage these topics with your kids, housemates, spouse, or friends.*

**REFLECT//** While you may not require physical bread and shelter from heaven, you may find yourself or a loved one in a season of spiritual hunger or homelessness. Can you take a moment to write down the daily sustenance God is providing to shepherd you through the wilderness?

**ACT//** It can be difficult to imagine the impact of growing up as a refugee. Did you know that World Renew has resources to help you understand the journey of a refugee and to equip you to sponsor refugees as they safely relocate to Canada? Learn more at [worldrenew.net/refugee-sponsorship](http://worldrenew.net/refugee-sponsorship) or [worldrenew.ca/refugee-sponsorship](http://worldrenew.ca/refugee-sponsorship)

“HE HAS FILLED THE  
HUNGRY WITH GOOD  
THINGS...” -LUKE 1:53

# GOOD JUSTICE: BEREKAH'S STORY


## MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS, CERTAINLY DID NOT FIT THE EXPECTED

mold of a revolutionary hungry for justice. Growing up, she likely would have been overlooked by many in her world. To most, she was simply a young Jewish girl betrothed to a young Jewish man and living an ordinary life in a small province of the Roman empire. But when the angel of the Lord visited Mary and prophesied that she would bring the Son of God into the world, Mary responded with a song of passion and justice.

For Mary, the coming of Jesus was a promise that the wrongs of the world would be made right: proud rulers would be humbled and those experiencing poverty would be given dignity and happiness. The hungry would be filled, Mary sang, and the people of Israel—those experiencing abandonment, powerlessness, and oppression—would receive aid and feel God’s presence.


**Mary understood the message of the gospel as one of peace and flourishing for all, and she proclaimed that message boldly. Her story shows us that a hunger for good comes in many different forms and that the hope of Jesus is not only about spiritual hope, but also about meeting physical needs in practical ways.**





In Nigeria, another young woman, named Berekah, feels her own fierce hunger for justice. In the context of persistent violence at the hands of bandits, many in Berekah's community have suffered from the murder of a family member or the loss of their homes. In response, World Renew has launched a training initiative so members of the community can learn how to listen to and care for those who have experienced pronounced trauma.

Berekah, like Mary, has seen and felt the suffering of her people deeply, and her heart has felt a burden for the young women who lost their homes and loved ones and now live in the local camp for displaced people. She felt convicted this training was her "God-given opportunity" to lift her voice and extend God's hope. Now she uses the skills she has acquired "to impact young girls like me who are suffering for no fault of theirs."



On Day One of this devotional, we learned that we were created by God to join Him in creating good in the world. Today, Berekah reminds us that creating good starts by bravely saying "yes" to the opportunities God places before us to share His hope with others. Will you say "yes"? It starts by keeping your eyes and heart open to those who still ache for justice, and then joining them in that hunger for good.



## practicing Good

*Take your experience deeper with these prompts intended for folks of all ages. Engage these topics with your kids, housemates, spouse, or friends.*

**REFLECT //** Do you have eyes trained to notice those aching for justice? What does it look like for you to make space for their stories and to join in responding to their hunger?

**ACT //** Consider joining World Renew to host a Dinner for Good this month. This is a chance to put all of the lessons you have gathered through these devotionals into practice. Learn more at [worldrenew.net/DinnerForGood](http://worldrenew.net/DinnerForGood) or [worldrenew.ca/DinnerForGood](http://worldrenew.ca/DinnerForGood)



# HUNGER FOR



# FOOD

**WITH COVID-19**, the number of people around the world suffering from acute food insecurity has grown by over 82%. As the economic aftershocks of the pandemic continue to reverberate, the cause for ending poverty has been set back more than three decades.

Beyond a single gift to address hunger, World Renew is encouraging people like you to consider becoming a monthly partner in addressing families' long-term needs through the Free a Family® program.

As a member of the Free a Family program, you bring hope to families through food, income generation, education and health and nutrition.

**\$27 a month is all it takes to equip a community with the essentials needed to free a family from hunger and poverty.** Respond to God's call for justice and help families change their story of hunger forever.

**Sign up to free a family from poverty today.**

US: [worldrenew.net/FREE-A-FAMILY](https://worldrenew.net/FREE-A-FAMILY)  
CAN: [worldrenew.ca/FREE-A-FAMILY](https://worldrenew.ca/FREE-A-FAMILY)

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