

“What are you discussing with each other?”

Jesus on the road to Emmaus



Fair Trade Worship Resources for 2011

So what are you discussing? This is the question Jesus asked two traumatised disciples on the road to Emmaus. With astonishment Cleopas marvelled that Jesus, who he does not recognise, was the only person who might not know what had just happened in Jerusalem.

This year Christian World Service is discussing food and our deepening concern about rising food prices. While food costs more in Aotearoa New Zealand, the high prices are hurting the world's poorest peoples even more. None less than Robert Zoellick at the World Bank recently announced that global food prices have risen 36% over the year to April. With food costs rising faster in poorer countries there is a real danger that many more people than the 1.2 billion already living below the World Bank's extreme poverty indicator of US\$1.25 a day will find themselves unable to eat. Something needs to change when the United Nations has committed to halving global poverty by 2015 in the Millennium Development Goals but growing numbers of people are likely to find themselves hungry.

Fairtrade is one effective strategy to combat hunger and help local producers get on with the business of making ends meet for their families and communities. Buying fairtrade branded products or from Trade Aid makes sure that the producers get a decent return without exploitation and with built in gains for the whole community through the fairtrade premium.

Many churches have taken the fair trade message on board, and more will join in when they hear what a difference it makes. This year the Fair Trade Association is inviting you to 'Show off your Swap'. It is a great opportunity for churches to tell others what can be done. This may be the year you finally include a focus in your worship, host A Fair Cuppa after church with a special collection for CWS partner CEPAD, or challenge the parish to a Bake Off. There's lots more fairtrade products around so give it a go and share the story of why giving people a fair deal is a matter of faith.

Preparing for Worship

These resources focus on the lectionary readings for May 15 but previous year's resources are brimming with ideas to help you focus on fair trade. CWS can provide some additional resources, for example more material on a particular product, or a speaker. Local staff at your Trade Aid shop are also be willing to help.





Children's Talk

Tell the story of the two disciples walking on the road to Emmaus after Jesus had been crucified. The road was probably dusty and not at all smooth. Get them to help you imagine what they might have said as they pondered all that had happened. They might have talked about how scared they were, how Jesus must have suffered and what might happen next. Show how they were discussing what was important to them and how they were swapping feelings and ideas. You could do this as you walked around the inside of the church if conditions allow.

Then tell them that another person has joined the group, "Someone else is here". He wants to know what you are talking about and you have a conversation. Ask them to imagine the village in the distance and as they approach not wanting to finish the conversation. So they asked the stranger home for a meal. Tell them that when the stranger broke the bread and shared it with them, they suddenly recognized him as Jesus. At that moment he vanished and with new found purpose they decided to return to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples what had happened.

End by telling them it is important to swap stories but we can also swap things. One thing we can do is swap chocolate or bananas and explain why swapping to fair trade means that the people who grow the chocolate/bananas get paid a better price. We can swap their story of poverty to a story of food, education and control over their own lives. In doing this we are sharing the love of God for everyone. Now share some fairtrade chocolate or bananas to make your words into actions.

Biblical Reflection

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41: Struck by Peter's powerful message, the Jerusalem crowd wanted to know what to do next. The response was familiar: repent, be baptized and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Christians can be inclined to emphasise the response rather than listening to hear what is being asked. In other words we can talk repentance before the audience is ready. This behaviour is not only found in discussing faith but also in other areas. We tell people the answer before we have made the case compelling. Perhaps it was only when Peter began that he found the words to speak and the faith to live by. Such a faith is found in community and the sharing of story.

Psalms 116: 1-4; 12-19: The psalm reports on a conversation between God and the psalmist. It begins with a word of praise because God listened when the psalmist felt threatened by death. God heard his troubles and cry for help, (v3-4) and God answered. Filled with the grace the psalmist offers a cup of salvation (v13). Scholars suggest that this may once have been a cultic act of lifting a real cup in worship as an acknowledgement of thanks.

1 Peter 1: 17-23: This letter is addressed to a dispersed community of Christians, living under suspicion of immorality, insubordination and sedition from those around them. The hearers of the letter are reminded that their allegiance is to the Father through the precious blood of Christ (v17,19). Love is the hallmark of the Christian life (v22). God's word will sustain them through whatever may happen (v 23).

Luke 24:13-35: The Road to Emmaus is a familiar story. To the traumatized disciples who seem to be returning home to resume what they were doing before Jesus crossed their paths, this encounter is life changing. Telling stories and trying to understand their experiences is something that happens after a crisis. Conversation is about what matters most and the connection with people is valuable above everything else. In the ancient Mediterranean world, this solidarity is made real through the sharing of food. The Eucharistic overtones of the meal are obvious, as is the way the disciples draw strength from their encounter with Jesus.



Opening Prayer

Leader:

Gracious God, you walk among us
Calm and patient
Listening to our cries for help
Sharing our burdens and concerns
Loving when times are tough.

Response:

Walk among us loving God
Build us into a community
That listens for those in need and offers hope.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Fair Trade hymn

Tune: ST DENIO

(Special thanks to Shirley Murray)

Good neighbours, forgive us –
we do not play fair;
those marketplace forces
determine our share,
 in trading, in aiding
 economy's role
 we've had to exchange
 dollar notes for our soul.

Good neighbours, remind us
of just how you toil –
the long hours of labour,
the working of soil,
 the profit from harvests
 that you never see,
 so we can keep drinking
 your coffee and tea.

Our own trade agreements
leave no time to heed
the cost of your labour,
your hunger and need,
 your children who swelter
 in poverty's lap,
 your people's enslavement
 in poverty's trap.

Good neighbours, allow us
deep feelings of shame,
with ways to recapture
our country's good name –
 consumers with conscience,
 respecting your role,
are brokers of justice
 to save our own soul.

Nicaraguan children planting trees for the future
with CEPAD



Prayer for others

We pray for the healing of all people
That we may find new ways to live together
So that the hungry have food, the homeless
shelter and those made poor the power to live
well in the world.

We pray for those who make the decisions that
keep the unfair trade systems working in ways
that are harmful for the many. Help them find
new ways of trading that don't mean some
people starve while others dine in splendour.

We pray for the healing of our planet
That we may change ways that are destructive
and harmful of life,
So that there is water to spare, trees and plants
that flourish and where every creature has its
place.
Help us to listen, to talk, to take action for the
things that are most important.
In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen

Closing Prayer

May we walk with your blessing
Confident that you walk with us
Listening to our deepest longings
And carrying the burdens of our unjust world.

Lead us together to find the love that you place
in our midst;
That we can live out your love in our world.

Response:

We go in peace with the love of God, for our-
selves and for God's world.
Amen

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Why Fair Trade?

Fairtrade ensures a better deal for impoverished producers in developing countries through:

- A fair and stable price for their products
- Long term trading relations and advance payments
- Investment in local community development
- Environmentally sustainable farming methods
- Support in gaining the knowledge and skills needed to operate successfully in the global economy

Help out CEPAD

Volatile and rising food prices are hitting CWS partners hard. Some of the rural farmers that CEPAD (the Council of Evangelical Churches) works with in Nicaragua grow coffee for extra income while others work seasonally on the plantations when they can. They are too small to make use of the fair trade market and face an uncertain future.

For further information

CWS: <http://www.cws.org.nz/take-action/trade/fair-trade-fortnight-2011>

Trade Aid: (order on line)

<http://www.tradeaid.co.nz/Home>

Pick of the Crop by Justin Purser, Trade

Aid <http://www.tradeaid.org.nz/reports/0586493001301280296.pdf>

Fair Trade Association of Australia and New Zealand:

<http://www.fairtrade.org.nz/>

Bananas: <http://allgoodbananas.co.nz/>

Take Action

- Swap to Fairtrade today. Look for the fairtrade mark or the Trade Aid brand. Tell others and celebrate your swaps through the link on the CWS website. Become a Fairtrade Church. For more information and to get a certificate contact CWS or check out the fair trade webpage.
- Raise funds to help CEPAD who work in rural communities of Nicaragua where some of the world's best coffee is grown. You could ask for donations or plan a special event like a debate on fair trade, a quiz night or a concert during Fair Trade Fortnight.
- Hold a special morning tea for **A Fair Cuppa** It can be as simple as serving tea and coffee or you could try a Bake Off using fairtrade ingredients.
- Pray for the millions of small farmers and workers struggling to make ends meet and for those supporting the Fair trade movement.
- Order supplies from Trade Aid for your parish every week.
- Encourage other churches and groups using your facilities to use fair-trade products.



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