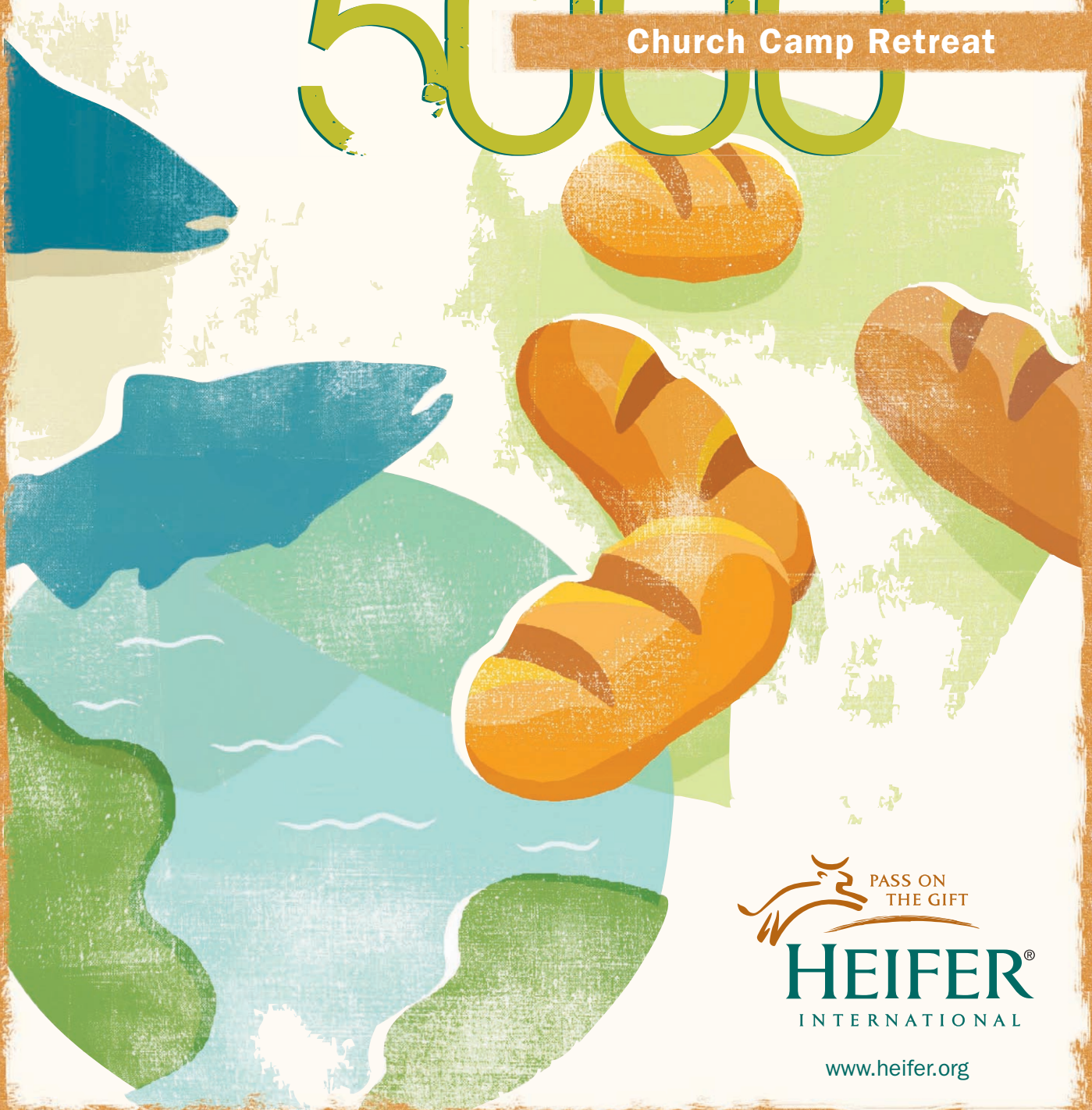


Feeding 50000

Church Camp Retreat



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THE GIFT
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INTERNATIONAL

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Church Camp Retreat

This program is a retreat that is inviting to all ages. It's full of gathering times, devotions, workshops, dramatic presentations, a reflection corner and fellowship. Over a night, a full day and a morning, the group will learn about Heifer International, a connection to scripture and a call to participate. The Fill the Ark Program will be launched with the celebration of the return of the ark banks occurring in worship four weeks later.

Refer to the Resource Kit for these details:

- How this is a Workshop Rotation Model curriculum
- Workshop overviews with scripture reference
- Fundraising ideas: Fill the Ark and The Living Gift Market
- Enhancements: Books, Amazing Math, Gathering Times

Use this planning guide to help organize your retreat.

Step 1: Review the Schedule

Step 2: Prepare for the Fundraiser, *Fill the Ark*

Step 3: Prepare for the Workshops

Step 4: Prepare for the Gathering Times

Step 5: Prepare for the Fellowship

STEP 1: REVIEW THE SCHEDULE

An overview of the schedule:

Day 1: Opening Night

- 7–9 p.m. Opening Night
- Evening Devotions
 - Storytelling: Dan West
 - “Build an Ark” and Heifer International
 - Candle making

9 p.m. Fellowship

Optional: some people may want to work on the Drama or Puppetry shows available in the curriculum and then perform them the next night.

Day 2:

8:30 a.m. Morning Devotions
Beatrice’s Goat

9 a.m.–Noon Workshops

Workshop	9-9:45 AM	10-10:45 AM	11-11:45 AM
Art	Group A	Group B	Group C
Photography	C	A	B
Movement/Games	B	C	A

Noon–2 p.m. Lunch and Quiet Time

2–5 p.m. Workshops

Workshop	2-2:45 PM.	3-3:45 PM.	4-4:45 PM.
Make Your Own Video	Group A	Group B	Group C
Photography	C	A	B
Movement/Games	B	C	A

Day 3: Closing Morning

Morning Devotions

Receive Heifer Ark banks and calendars

Celebrate the return of the ark banks full of change in four weeks in worship

STEP 2: PREPARE FOR THE FUNDRAISER, *FILL THE ARK*.

Refer to the Resource Kit for information about the *Fill the Ark* fundraiser

Order ark banks and calendars in advance

STEP 3: PREPARE FOR THE WORKSHOPS

The two workshop schedules are:

Workshop	9-9:45 a.m.	10-10:45 a.m.	11-11:45 a.m.
Art	Group A	Group B	Group C
Photography	C	A	B
Movement/Games	B	C	A

In the Art Workshop, you might want to create the gytaku prints onto placements or table runners, which can be used for the remaining meals.

In the Photography Workshop, each class will work on the silhouettes for 1/3 of the *Beatrice's Goat* story. This slideshow can be shown on the evening of Day 2 or during morning devotions on Day 3. It is not necessary for this to be a “polished” presentation.

Workshop	2-2:45 p.m.	3-3:45 p.m.	4-4:45 p.m.
Make Your Own Video	Group A	Group B	Group C
Photography	C	A	B
Geography	B	C	A

The “commercials” made in the Make Your Own Video Workshop can be shown on the evening of Day 2 or during morning devotions on Day 3.

Snacks can be served in the Geography Workshop, perhaps individual size cereal boxes.

Invite people to be workshop leaders. Look for those who have a talent for a particular project. They should acquire the supplies for their workshop and bring them to the retreat.

Offer the opportunity for a performance. Both the Puppetry and Drama workshop lessons could be enacted for the larger group. Either ask people to prepare in advance of the retreat or take time on the first night and the next afternoon to rehearse. Gather appropriate props and print the appropriate number of scripts.

STEP 4: PREPARE FOR THE GATHERING TIMES

Each Gathering Time starts out with devotion. A responsive Call to Worship and a prayer can be read by volunteers of all ages. Print out several copies for the readers.

Day 1: Opening Night

- Invite someone to enact Dan West, the founder of Heifer International. The script is in the Storytelling workshop lesson.
- Create a space for the candle-decorating activity, also from the Storytelling lesson.
- Have the display ready for the Build the Ark activity.

Day 2:

- Use the candles made the previous night during the morning devotions.
- Invite someone to tell the story of Beatrice's Goat.

Day 3: Closing Morning

- Be ready to distribute the ark banks and the calendars.

STEP 5: PREPARE FOR THE FELLOWSHIP

The evenings are left to the discretion of the leaders. They are focused on fellowship. Some options to consider are:

- A Heifer Corner
Create a quiet place where people can peruse resources and enjoy be calm, relaxed and reflective and includes Heifer resources like:
 - Books
 - Amazing Math
 - Heifer Publications
- This could be a talent show night. A group may have rehearsed a drama or puppet show. There may be a slideshow to show from the Photography Workshop. There may be a video to see from the Make Your Own Video Workshop. Anticipate and arrange for media needs.
- Heifer has several videos. Preview them to determine which ones will work best with your group.

GATHERING TIMES

Day 1: Opening Night

Evening Devotions:

Call to Worship

Leader: We give you thanks and praise, O God, for this time that we have set aside from our daily lives to learn more about you. Fill our time together with the gift of your Holy Spirit.

ALL: *We give and receive gifts of hope, gifts of love, gifts of life.*

Leader: Open our hearts as we gather to learn and grow in faith and fellowship with one another.

ALL: *We give and receive gifts of hope, gifts of love, gifts of life.*

Leader: Lord all good and perfect gifts come from you. We give thanks for the work of Heifer International as they help us to share our gifts with people around the world.

ALL: *We give and receive gifts of hope, gifts of love, gifts of life*

Prayer

God we know that your great desire is for all people to work together so that no one is in need and that no one is uncared for. Bless the learning that we will do today so that we might grow in our understanding and knowledge of how we can work together to achieve things none of us could do alone. We give thanks for the ways that Heifer encourages communities to work together and honors the gifts of each member of the community, old and young alike. Jesus welcomed everyone to participate in your Kingdom and Heifer follows that model by inviting everyone in the community both here and around the world to participate in life changing programs. Bless us all as we work to make your Kingdom a reality on Earth. Amen.

Storytelling: Dan West

(From the Storytelling Workshop)

Build an Ark:

Divide into 12 groups and assign each group one Heifer Cornerstone and one scripture. In the group, talk about the Cornerstone and the scripture and prepare a creative way to share this information with the whole group.

Candle Activity: (See the Storytelling Workshop for instructions and supplies.)

Teach closing song ***Mi Chacra***

Evening Fellowship Time:

- During this time a group can work on the Puppetry or Drama workshop and present it to the group during evening fellowship on Day 2
- Show Heifer Videos of your choice
- Free Time

Day 2:

Morning Devotions: (use the candles made in the evening session)

Call to Worship

Leader: O, God, you are the light of the world. We light these candles as a sign of your light that shines in the world. This gift of light guides our

ALL: *We give and receive gifts of hope, gifts of love, gifts of life.*

Leader: Light our paths and illuminate our understanding of how each of us is connected to each other and you.

ALL: *We give and receive gifts of hope, gifts of love, gifts of life.*

Leader: God we know that we can light the candle of another without diminishing the light in our on candle. Help us learn and grow and use all our resources to pass on your light and love to others.

Opening Prayer

Dear God sometimes we ask how much is enough? Do I have enough? If I share, will I have enough for myself? Our stories of faith tell us over and over again that love is the most important thing we have and that there will always have enough if we share. There is no kindness or expression of love that is wasted. We give you thanks for this miracle of love and know that as we grow, we will feel and share love with countless people around the world, united to make the world a better place.

Read Beatrice's Goat

Song - *Mi Chacra*

Day Overview:

- Be sure that everyone knows the daily schedule
- Divide into three groups for workshop times
- Let everyone know where the workshops rooms are
- Acknowledge and thank the workshop leaders

Day 3:

Morning Devotions:

Call to worship

Leader: God thank you for this morning. We call it the present moment because we know it is a gift from you.

ALL: *We give and receive gifts of hope, gifts of love, gifts of life.*

Leader: Continue to open our hearts and minds as we learn more about our selves and the work of Heifer and can find new ways to share our resources with others.

ALL: *We give and receive gifts of hope, gifts of love, gifts of life.*

Opening Prayer

Loving and generous God we know that the life can be a great challenge for many people. This can be because of bad weather, like tornadoes and tsunamis, or because of war or lack of water. Help us to know that you work with us to help others overcome the many challenges they face. We are encouraged to act with kindness toward all people and work for justice is not for "Just us" but for all. Our prayer is that that everyone will have the opportunity to live a good, healthy and safe life in this generation and for generations to come. Amen.

Share video or photography workshop results.

Fill the Ark Program:

The resources provided by Heifer to connect the day's learning with the Fill the Ark program. Distribute the Arks to all families and have them share ways they plan on filling their arks. It is most helpful to set a group goal.

Song - *Mi Chacra*

Blessing on the journey:

God bless us as we leave this time together and bless the families who receive the living gifts from Heifer. We are grateful for the gifts and talents of this congregation that have been share this weekend. Your goodness and bounty are so abundant and by sharing with one another we make your Kingdom a reality on Earth. Amen.

Safe travel home.

CALLS TO WORSHIP AND PRAYERS

Print these devotions for each reader.

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Day 3:

Morning Devotions:

Call to worship

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