

BE THE CHANGE

Self Denial Appeal 2019



04: GOD PROVIDES

MINGLE

If you have regular ice-breakers, feel free to stick with your own. Otherwise, here are some questions you could use.

QUESTIONS

If you could choose to be one age forever, what age would you be and why?

Would you rather never be able to eat hot food or never be able to eat cold food?

If you were a type of chocolate bar or lolly, what would you be and why?

ACTIVITY: CHOCCY CHALLENGE

Equipment needed:

An assortment of chocolate bars

Blindfolds

Split the group into teams (as many or as few as you think will work best). Get two volunteers from each team to stand up the front and have one of each pair put on a blindfold. The other person from each pair takes a piece of a chocolate bar, and at the same time they all feed it to their blindfolded buddies. The first person to guess the type of chocolate bar correctly gets a point for their team.

Choose a new member of each team to be blindfolded and repeat until you've used all the different chocolate bars. The team with the most points wins.

Application: In New Zealand, when we pray 'give us our daily bread' most of us have the expectation not only of enough basic meals, but of chocolate and treats as well. Today we'll be thinking about people for whom the basics of life are not guaranteed, such as attending a school with no water supply on site.

THE WORD

Ask someone to read the following passage out loud to your group. You could get a couple of people to read it out if they have different translations.

Matthew 6: 10-12 (NLT)

May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need.

ADDITIONAL PASSAGES

Here are some great supporting passages that you could also get people to read out or use to prompt discussion.

Psalm 23

Matthew 6:31-33

Philippians 4:19

WHAT DO THESE VERSES REVEAL ABOUT GOD?

(They show God is a god of provision, providing for our physical and spiritual needs.)

VIDEO

Watch the Self Denial video 'Week 5: South Africa'. This is available to view and download at www.selfdenial.info/nzfts

DISCUSSION

Use the following questions to encourage discussion. Feel free to add your own and ask follow up questions as people share to keep the discussion flowing.

What is the change that going to take place in Kwenele's story? *(The change is having basic human needs met, which Kwenele can clearly see will open up opportunities for her. We can't do anything unless basic physical needs like water and hygiene are met.)*

Some of the statistics in the video can be overwhelming. For example, 3 out of 10 people don't have access to safe water, and 6 in 10 lack safe sanitation. How do you deal with this? What is a good prayer for this situation?

When we pray "... may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" who are we expecting to do it? Brainstorm some needs, physical or spiritual, of people in your communities, and whether there is anything you can do to help meet them other than praying.

THIS WEEK

Think about the people in your community who struggle to have their basic needs met. Pray for them as well as coming up with some ways that you can 'be the change' by offering practical help to those in need.

Have you been saving up to give to the Self Denial Appeal? Make sure you bring your donation along this Sunday (or to Bible study next week). If you have some money you could give but haven't decided on an amount yet, spend some time this week thinking and praying about how much you're going to give.

PRAYER

Spend some time praying together.

Pray for Kwenele and the WASH (Water, Sanitation and Health) project.

Pray for those around us whose basic physical needs are not always being met.

Pray that people would be generous when giving to the Self Denial Appeal this week and that God would use the money raised to provide for those who need it most.