

### For children – ages 4-12 years

At Harvest we thank God for all the good things he has given us – especially for food to eat and people who work hard to grow our food.

These activities, based on the parable of the talents, explain that God gives us lots of other good things too – as well as saying thank you we need to make sure we don't waste them.

In India, people are making the most of the opportunities MRDF support has given them. One technique they have learned is using worms to make enriching compost from rubbish.

*Mix and match!  
Take a look at the  
all-age materials  
for more fun and  
games.*

### Explaining and exploring the parable of the talents

Start with the parable from a children's Bible or simplified retelling.

#### Explain

- God gives us all 'talents' – but not necessarily money. The silver represents things we are good at or enjoy, or things and opportunities we have, eg. being good at cheering people up, having lots of energy to help people, being able to ride a bike and do errands.
- This parable teaches us to use the talents that God has given us and not waste them.
- If we use them wisely, we make God happy and help to make our world pleasing to God.

#### Ask

What 'talents' has God given you? (Prompt for possessions, opportunities and things they can do well.)  
How do you or could you use those talents for God?

### Gangadevi's miracle worms

Hold up the picture of the worm (see end) and ask:

- What do you think this is?
- Would you believe me if I told you that this worm had helped to make small miracles possible?

Well, ordinary worms helped to make miracles possible for a lady called Gangadevi in India.

Gangadevi and her husband never had the chance to go to school because their families were very poor. When Gangadevi grew up and had her own family it was very difficult to earn money to buy food for her children.

She had a little piece of land, but she couldn't afford to grow her own food. Fertilisers and things to keep bugs away were too expensive for her. And anyway, she couldn't read the instructions and didn't have any protective clothes to use chemicals safely.



**There are PowerPoint slides including this story available from the CD-ROM or our website.**

But the Methodist Relief and Development Fund helped Gangadevi and her neighbours learn how to work together and use what they do have.

They have learned to make wormeries. The worms munch through scraps and peelings from the families' kitchens and make compost to fertilise fruit and vegetables. This means that Gangadevi doesn't need expensive fertiliser and now she can grow her own fruit and vegetables to feed her family.

She grows things like aubergines, chillies, tomatoes, oranges and bananas. Now her family has enough to eat and even some to sell. It's a small miracle – and the wiggly worms helped make it possible.

Because they are earning money, Gangadevi and her neighbours can afford to send their children to school – so the children will have better opportunities to earn a living in the future.

### Talk about

What didn't Gangadevi and her friends have at the beginning?

(Money, education, fertiliser.)

What did they have?

(Kitchen scraps, worms, small pieces of land, time.)

What things did they learn to use to get the most from?

(Each other – sharing/working together, kitchen scraps, worms.)

What difference has this made?

(Enough food, a way to earn money, children in school.)

### Fruitful prayers

Use old magazines to make fruit and vegetable collages as a reminder of how the women in India used kitchen waste to help them grow vegetables (with the help of the worms!).

#### You will need:

- cut out copies of the fruit and vegetable drawings (on pages 4-6) – one per child.
- colourful magazines/newspapers to rip up
- glue.

1. Show the group the fruits and vegetables, talk briefly about what colours they would be, then go through the magazines together and tear out pages with blocks of these colours. (If you have very little time as a group you might want to do this in advance.)

2. Once you have plenty of coloured pages, give each child a fruit or vegetable to fill in, collage or mosaic fashion, with torn up pages.

3. Invite each child to write a prayer on the back of their collage, thanking God for something he has given them and telling God how they will get the most from it to please him.

### More fruitful together!

#### Fruitful prayers variation for ages 10 and over

This explores the advantages of working as a team.

- Start off with everyone looking for the one colour for their own fruit/vegetable. Each child will need to look in all the magazines and some will struggle to find any of their colour.
- After a few minutes, see if they have realised why this isn't a very efficient way. Bring the group back together and make a list of the colours needed. Have all the children look for all of the colours – much more efficient!
- While they create their collages you could discuss how working co-operatively might have helped the women grow more vegetables. Answers include:
  - pool seeds and grow larger amounts of each crop together
  - swap and share crops so everyone gets a balanced diet
  - people can do what they're best at – eg strongest people carry water while others weed
  - share costs of getting crops to town to sell.

### The wiggly worm song

To the tune of: Here we go round the mulberry bush

Each verse has an action described in brackets before it.

*(Wiggling fingers like worms)*

Here we have some wiggly worms

Wiggly worms

Wiggly worms

Here we have some wiggly worms

Wiggling all day long!

*(Wiggle fingers then mime digging the ground)*

Wiggly worms make good compost

Good compost

Good compost

Wiggly worms make good compost

To feed the crops!

*(Mime digging and then biting a big piece of fruit)*

Good compost grows fruit and veg

Fruit and veg

Fruit and veg

Good compost grows fruit and veg

All year round!

*(Rubbing tummies)*

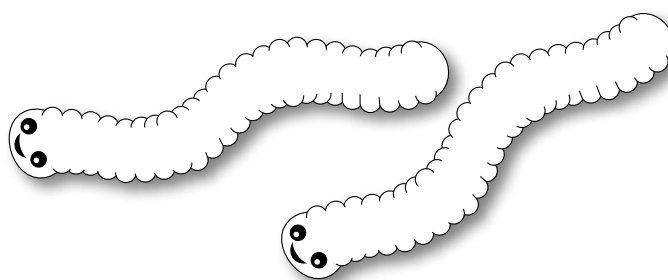
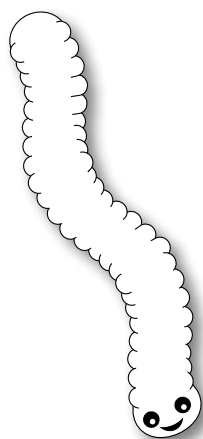
Now everyone has food to eat

Food to eat

Food to eat

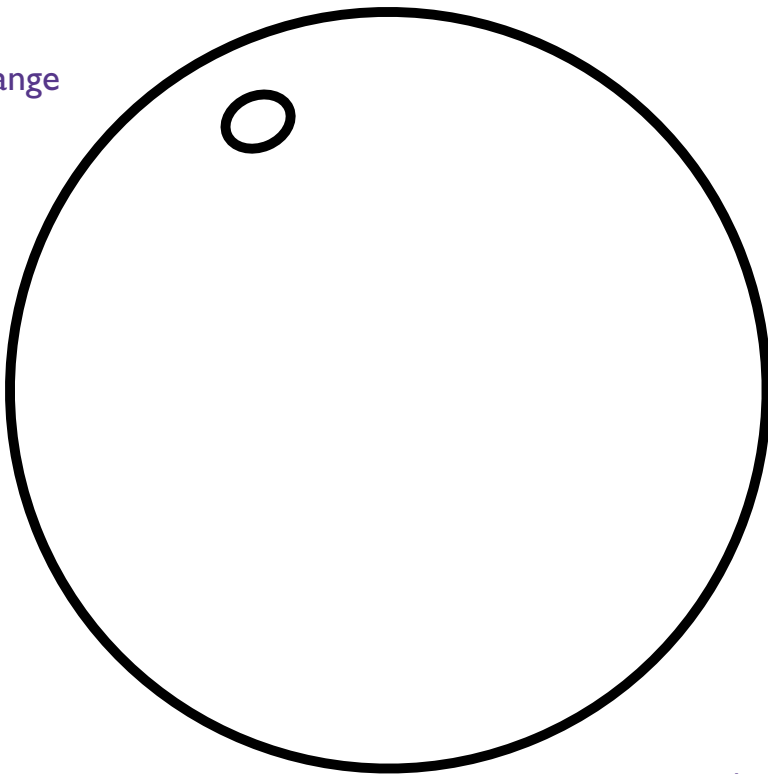
Now everyone has food to eat

And veg to sell!

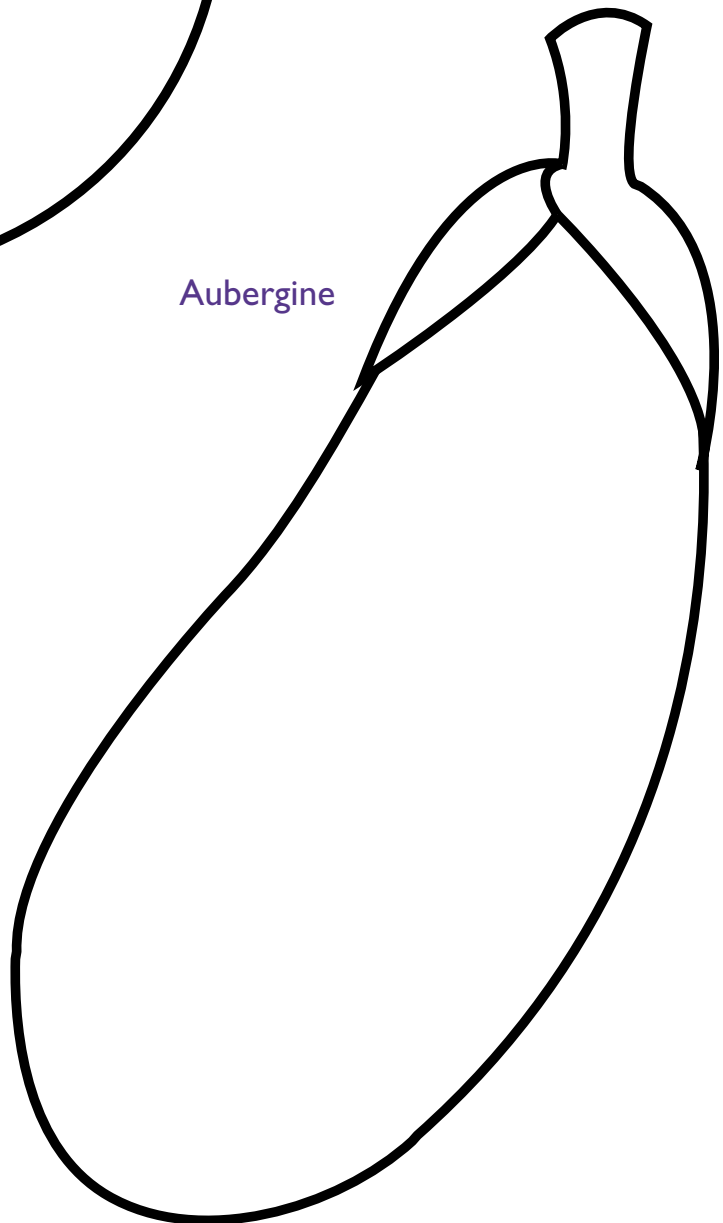


## Illustrations

Orange



Aubergine

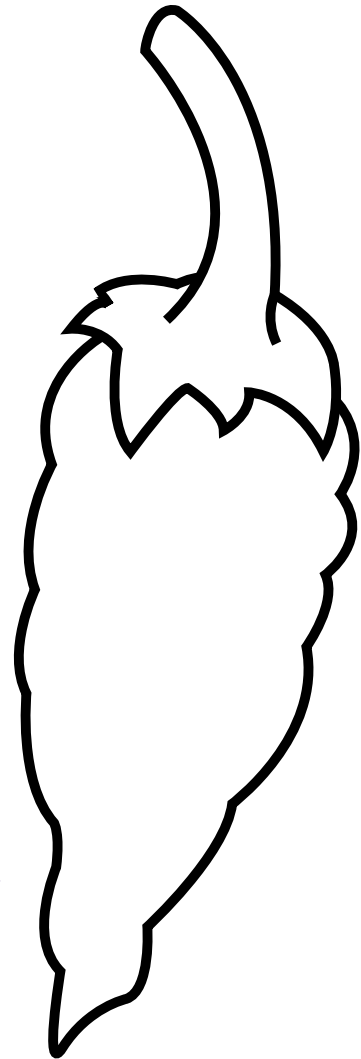


## Illustrations

Tomato



Chilli pepper

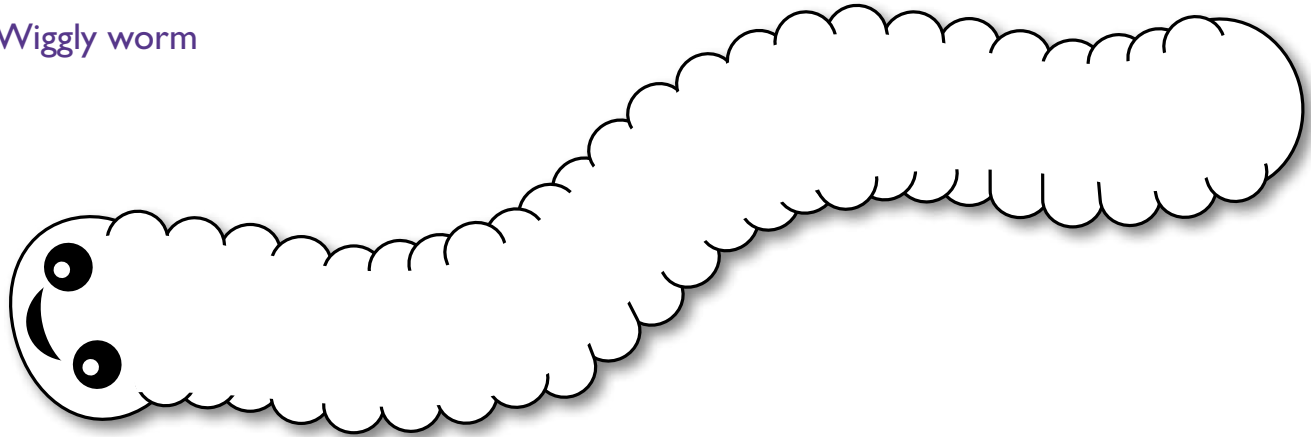


Banana



## Illustrations

Wiggly worm



Gangadevi

