**Feed the Hungry!**

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***Kentucky Council of Churches
Campus Ministry Modules***

**Feed the Hungry!**

**Module Flow**

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**Introduction**

The food crisis is threatening, pervasive and worldwide. The suffering due to the lack of proper access to healthy food is difficult to express in words. It has reached the level of an existential challenge. Here in Kentucky countless numbers of people do not have enough to eat. Fortunately there are many who seek to address this need. In Louisville, Kentucky programs, such as those Dare to Care, feed thousands weekly; but they do not reach all who are in need. This problem is multiplied throughout the world where extreme poverty leads to death by starvation. As Christians we cannot allow the suffering of others to be ignored. There is, yet, much to learn about how to help.

Ecumenical organizations around the world have made statements and developed programs to address the hunger crisis. Kentucky has promoted a number of initiatives.

See for example the Kentucky Council Of Churches Policy Statement On Welfare Reform. Commission on Justice Ministries. Adopted by the 47th Annual Assembly, October 20-21, 1994

“One of the marks of faithfulness, in both Hebrew tradition and the Christian gospel, is the way which believers treat, care for, and respond to the stranger or foreigner, the beggar, and children. Always, we are enjoined to treat the stranger, the poor, and even our enemies as if we ourselves are they, because, at one time, Israel was in slavery, Israel was a sojourner and an alien, Israel was poor. By virtue of Jesus Christ, we have been grafted onto the vine of Israel. We begin therefore, with a basic belief that assistance for those in need is not optional, but a fundamental principle of Christian behavior and Christian values.”

The Biblical mandate to help the poor and hungry is clear.

**Guiding Question**

How can we, as Christians, rise to the challenge of feeding all of God’s children?

**Guiding Bible Passages**

# Matthew 25:35-40 (NRSV)

**35**for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, **36**I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ **37**Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? **38**And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? **39**And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ **40**And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family,you did it to me.’

# Romans 12:19-21 (NRSV)

**19**Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God;[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12:19-21&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-28250a)] for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” **20**No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” **21**Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Mark 6:30-44

**30**The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. **31**He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. **32**And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. **33**Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. **34**As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. **35**When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; **36**send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.” **37**But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” They said to him, “Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii iworth of bread, and give it to them to eat?” **38**And he said to them, “How many loaves have you? Go and see.” When they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” **39**Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. **40**So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. **41**Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. **42**And all ate and were filled; **43**and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. **44**Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

**Bible** **Passages**

Job 5.5

Job 24:10

Psalm 50:12

Psalm 107 (5,9.36)

Prov. 6:30

Prov. 25:21

Isaiah 58

Ezekiel 18: 5-9

Matthew, 14:13 – 21;

Luke 9: 10-17

John 6: 1-13

Luke 10:25.

**Worship Center**

For the Worship Center you will need: Bibles, a candle for each participant. One piece of cardboard for every discussion group, glue and staples, string, adhesive tape, sticky tack etc. White paper, colored markers, crayons, pencils, and/or pens.

Place a white cloth on your Worship Center. Place a candle in a candleholder in the center of the table.

**Bible Study**

Gather as a group around a table with a chalice, a candle and a cross placed at its center. Light the candle and begin with a prayer of thanksgiving for the abundance we share. The prayer can be lead by the discussion leader or by persons chosen from the attendees.

Read aloud the three Biblical passages above.

**Bible Reflection**

Ask: How many of you have known someone who did not have enough to eat? Can you imagine what it must feel like to not know where your next meal will come from?

Those who suffer from hunger are our neighbors. The miracle of the Feeding of the Five Thousand is the only miracle that is present in all four Gospels. It is found in Matthew, 14:13 – 21; Mark 6, Luke 9: 10-17 and John 6: 1-13.

Activity: Separate into groups with about 6-8 people and have them write down their concept of our Act II on a piece of poster board. Have each group post their papers and then ask the next question.

Ask: what does the crisis mean for your life? How can you make a difference?

Have people share what they have done to address the problem of hunger. How many have helped out at a food bank or have helped serve a meal to the poor? What was that experience like?

**Closing Prayer**

# Gather together as a group around the table and Pray this Prayer Concerning the Zero Hunger Initiative

Giver of all good things:
we thank you for answered prayer in the gift of daily bread.
At your command the seed germinates, and grain rises from the ground,
and laborers heed the call to work fields ripe for harvest.
By your grace the millers grind and bakers bake, so that cities and nations are fed.
Give all the people of this earth their daily bread, we pray.

Head of the household of faith, you recognize every family by name:
we ask you to gather us together at the table of your abundance.
Open our eyes and ears, enliven each of our senses,
so that we may find in the bread that is so graciously given for all
clear proof of your sovereignty and providence.

Bread of life, you are the ultimate source of our nourishment in body and spirit:
when women and men are most in need, and least confident,
surprise us again with merciful gifts appearing like manna
in the midst of those who face death, who mourn, who suffer and feel abandoned.
Give us the bread we need for each day, and lead us to share it willingly with the hungry.

Teach us how to pray from our hearts, Lord, that we may come to trust entirely in you. For you are with us in the gift of daily bread, yet accompany us too in times of fasting, and remain our companion even in seasons of suffering, poverty and want.
Keep us in your love, and grant that we too may show love to you and to our neighbors.

We pray in the name of Jesus, who broke bread and shared it freely. Amen.

(© 2005 WCC) Close in a moment of Silence and afterwards pray together the Lord’s Prayer.

**Outreach with Community and Global Partners.**

Join the World Council of Church’s Efforts to End Hunger and Poverty.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/events/churches-week-of-action-on-food>.

**Join Local Partners**

Join the CROP Walk in your area. The CROP walk is organized by Church World Service and supports their work throughout the world to address the food crisis.

### Action Ideas Suggested by the World Council of Churches.

**Organize a special church service** to focus on the ten commandments of food or further reflection on creation and food. A liturgy prepared for the Morning Prayers at the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva for World Food Day 2016 is available.

**Organize a “bring and share” meal at your church**, with dishes prepared with produce from local gardens and farmers.

**Celebrate local foods and knowledge:** Organize a community fair that showcases local food producers and shares the stories of farmers and people involved in food justice.

**Lobby policy makers and businesses** to create a stable demand for local and seasonal produce through school meal programes and hospitals.

**Organize a study and discussion session** for your church or community group focusing on the ["Ten Commandments of Food"](http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-programmes/diakonia/eaa/ten-commandments-of-food) and the [Advocacy Tools for Congregations.](http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-programmes/diakonia/eaa/10-commandments-of-food-advocacy-tools-for-congregations)

**Get your hands in the dirt:** Plan a trip to your nearest farm to meet (and help!) the farmer and learn more about the challenges and joys of food production. Consider joining or starting a community garden.

**Share your food story** with a captioned photo, video or written post (e.g. on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook), using the hashtag #myfoodstory

**Join Global Partners**

**Join the Zero Hunger Challenge**Individuals and groups can join the [Zero Hunger Challenge](http://blog.zerohungerchallenge.org/join-the-challenge/), an initiative of the United Nations’ secretary general to raise awareness and build a movement around eliminating hunger.

**Double Up a Meal for a Hunger Free World**
World Vision is inviting supporters and churches worldwide to share their vision of a hunger-free world by celebrating food and donating the cost of their favorite meal on World Food Day to help end hunger. Proceeds will launch HungerFree, a new initiative investing in young people in Kenya and South Sudan. Learn more and find church resources, stories and videos at [http://www.hungerfree.org](https://mail.ecucenter.org/owa/redir.aspx?C=fa7HYaPvF0C0kRPR86ls4_Zmv9ggrdIITk6q1dvBtQ0hJ-2dRg7ELHCV-5gUje--kVhUVKBVbvk.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.hungerfree.org%2f)

**Celebrate the Winners of the Food Sovereignty Prize**See[foodsovereigntyprize.org](http://www.foodsovereigntyprize.org/) for this year’s winners (announcement in October), and past winners. Like [www.facebook.com/FoodSovereigntyPrize](http://www.facebook.com/FoodSovereigntyPrize) to get updates.

**On line Resources**

**Documents**

“The Ten Commandments of Food”.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-programmes/diakonia/eaa/ten-commandments-of-food>.

Material found on the webpage: www.oikoumene.org/foodweek.

**Videos**

UN World Food Program

https://www.ted.com/talks/josette\_sheeran\_ending\_hunger\_now

Watch the TED talk by Bono on ending hunger and poverty. https://www.ted.com/talks/bono\_the\_good\_news\_on\_poverty\_yes\_there\_s\_good\_news