

CALL and COMMITMENT 2025

on your knees
and pray for
harvest hands

MATTHEW
9:38





HARVEST HANDS

Call & Commitment Sunday - Children's Time

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Preparation:

Heart stickers (purchase from dollar store, craft store or [amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca)) and a bag.

Place one heart sticker (backing still on) inside a paper bag or gift bag.

Optional: Have sheets of paper, pencils/markers, and scissors available along with heart stickers. Encourage children to trace their hands, place a heart sticker on the palm, and then write each prayer point on the fingers. Cut the hands out and send home as reminder to be Harvest Hands for Jesus. (If short on time, feel free to photocopy a page with hands already drawn, cut apart, and give a hand to each child present.) If two hands are drawn on the sheet encourage the children to give one of the hands to someone else to encourage them to be "harvest hands" for Jesus.

Share:

I've brought something with me today. I wonder if you can guess what it might be. *(Allow a few children to guess.)* Mm, I think maybe I should give you a hint. It's red. It reminds me of how to treat others. Any more guesses? *(Encourage a few more guesses. Then pull sticker out of your bag.)* It's a heart! Why does a heart remind us how to treat others? A heart makes us think of love and when we love someone, we take time to show them we care.

What are some ways that we show others we care for them? *(Encourage responses.)* Wow! Great job. There are so many ways we can show we care. We can help with chores, spend time with friends and family, play with a younger brother or sister, give gifts to those we love, let someone else go first, say 'Thank you', and so many other ways. Thanks for encouraging me with more ideas than I had of my own!

Jesus, God's Son, loved people so much He left Heaven and came to earth as a baby, and when He grew into a man He traveled from city to city. Jesus cared so much for people that He told them about God's love for them and He healed those who were sick. But Jesus noticed something as He spent time with people. Listen to this:

Then Jesus made a circuit of all the towns and villages. He taught in their meeting places, reported kingdom news, and healed their diseased bodies, healed their bruised and hurt lives. When he looked out over the crowds, his heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd. "What a huge harvest!" he said to his disciples. "How few workers! On your knees and pray for *harvest hands!*" (Matthew 9:35-38 MSG)

Who know what it means to harvest? *(Encourage responses.)* Harvest is a time when workers go out to the fields or gardens and gather food by hand that the farmer planted and cared for. When Jesus talks about harvest he is talking about people who need the seed God has planted in their lives to be encouraged to grow in knowing and loving God. To harvest is to encourage others to invite Jesus into their lives as their Saviour.

Our Bible reading tells us that Jesus was heart-broken when he noticed that the people needed someone to lead them. He knew that people needed to be led to God. He wanted workers to help spread God's Good News! He needed *harvest hands!*

Jesus also did something really important to show us just how much He loved us. Who knows what he did? Jesus loved us so much He took the punishment for the things we have done wrong – for our sin. Jesus died on the cross. He loved us so much he allowed the soldiers to nail Him to a cross. They nailed His feet and His hands. When I think of Jesus, I think of how His hands were wounded for me. His hands remind me that not only does He love me; He loves everyone around me. Jesus wants me to help others know that He loves and cares for them. *(Peel heart off paper backing and stick to your palm. Hold your palm out to children as you say:)* Jesus wants me to have "harvest hands"!

Not only does Jesus want me to have "harvest hands", but He also wants each of us to join in and tell others about Him. Are you willing to be Jesus' "harvest hands"? If you are, hold out your palm. *(Bring out stickers and stick a red heart into the palm of each child who comes forward.)*

In Matthew 9:38 Jesus tells his followers to pray for "harvest hands". He wants us to pray too. I'm going to share with you five prayer points *(hold up hand with fingers spread apart)* that will help us and others to be "harvest hands".

Here are the five points:

1. **Thumb** – Our thumb is the closet finger to us, and we often use it to give something a thumbs up, so let's thank Jesus for loving us.
2. **Pointer finger** – Next is our pointer finger, it reminds us to invite Jesus to point out who we can share Him with.
3. **Tall finger** – Our next finger is our tallest finger. We need to ask God to send workers who will stand tall for Jesus.
4. **Ring finger** – Our ring finger is our weakest finger, so we need to ask God to help all of us to keep our focus on Jesus our shepherd.
5. **Baby finger** – Our last finger is our baby finger, and it reminds us to pray for friends and family to choose to follow Jesus.

Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for each of us. Now He is calling you and me to help lead others into a relationship with Him. Jesus is calling us to be His "harvest hands". Will you answer His call today? Will you pray for more "harvest hands"?

Prayer:

Gather the children around you. Hold hand with sticker up so sticker faces away from you. Thank God for Jesus and His willingness to demonstrate just how much He loves us. Ask God to help each of you to be His "harvest hands" as you show and tell others about God's great love for them and to pray that others would choose to be "harvest hands" for Him.

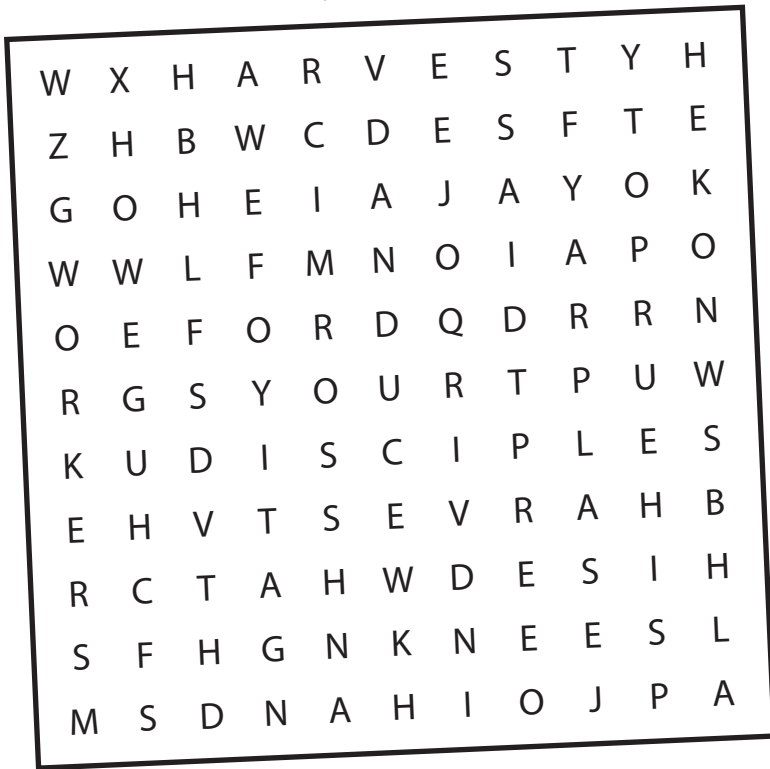
Finish:

Print and give out to the children the activity sheet on the next page to encourage them in being God's "harvest hands".

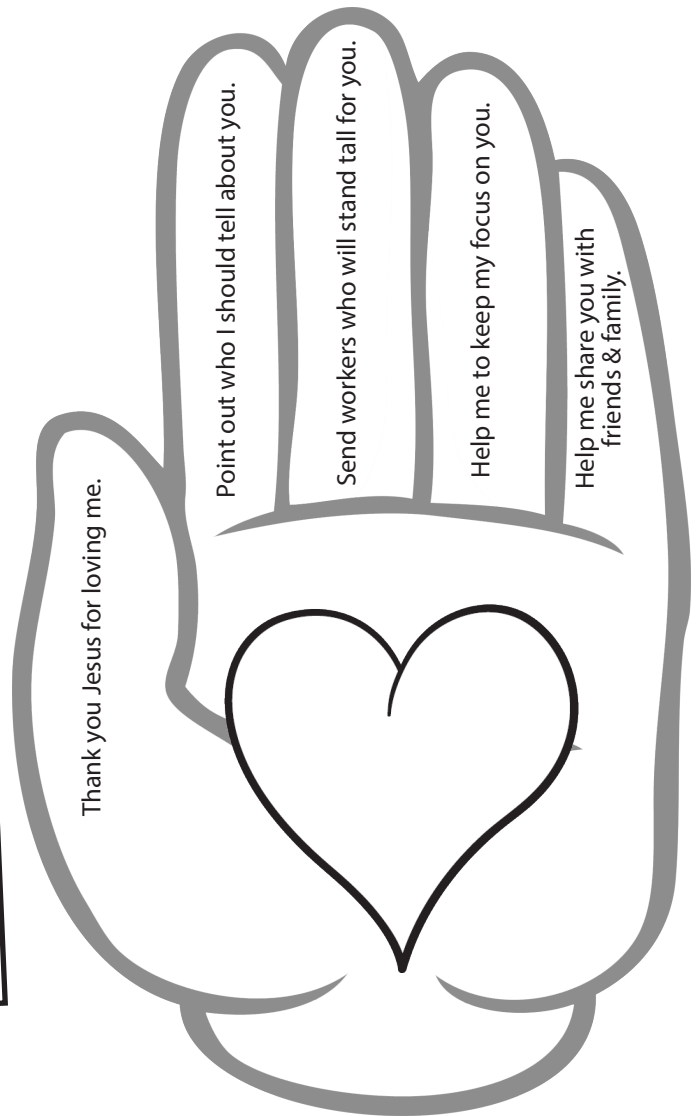


HARVEST HANDS

See if you can find all of the hidden words of today's Bible verse. Strike them out as you find them.



Harvest Hands Prayer Points



Colour the heart after you have prayed the five prayer points.

“WHAT A HUGE HARVEST!” HE SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES. “HOW FEW WORKERS! ON YOUR KNEES AND PRAY FOR HARVEST HANDS!”

Matthew 9:38

In the hearts, write or draw **3** things you know about Jesus' love for all people.

Who are **3** people you can tell about Jesus' love?

