

# Hope in the Dry Season

When the world says, "Give up," Hope whispers, "Try it one more time." ~Author Unknown

## Advance Preparation

- Prepare the video, 'Hope in the Dry Season' and the 'Hope in the Dry season interviews'.
- Gather the materials for craft activity: rice or small pebbles, cardboard tubes from wrapping paper or food wrap, clear packing tape, toothpicks, decorative materials.
- Choose discussion leaders for small groups.
- Preview the 10 minute documentary *And This is My Garden: A Documentary Film* about the Mel Johnson School Gardening Project and decide if you'd like to use it to extend your focus on the topic of food security. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=RS99UQRdqX0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=RS99UQRdqX0)

## Creating community

- Activity for early Arrivals: Practice making the sounds of rain by rubbing the palms of your hands back and forth slowly, then snapping fingers, slowly at first and then faster, then slapping your hands on your thighs at moderate and then at a faster speed. This crescendo of rain like sounds is then reversed. Once this has been practised, and everyone has arrived, the leader directs participants to sit in a circle and gets a few people to begin the sequence. As they move into the next action in the sound sequence, a few more are directed to join in. Then the third group, etc. until a full rain storm sound is achieved. Then the reversal is begun, as the first few progress from fast thigh slaps to moderate ones. The last to begin the sound sequence will be the last ones to make the final breeze-like sounds. Enjoy the silence and spend some time thinking about rain related memories.
- Welcome: Begin an association game in which participants finish sentences such as: During the dry season, people long for.... Change the adjective dry to stormy, winter, hot, busy, soccer, etc.
- Introduce the theme of food security and the importance of helping each other have hope. Share the opening quote and wonder about it silently for about 15 seconds.
- Ask participants to reflect silently on the area in their lives where they most need hope.

## Exploring a new view

- Watch the video 'Hope in the Dry Season'.

### Kid Shorts



### Hope Challenge

Despair is averted by hope when we encourage each other and stand up to the challenges of food security together.

# Responding

- In small groups, discuss several of the questions the kids discuss in the video *'Hope in the Dry Season: Interviews'*.

1. What does 'food security' mean?
2. Why is rain so important to Hope and her dad?
3. Why do you think that Hope's father stops believing the rains would come?
4. How do you think Hope kept on hoping?
5. Where do you think Hope's mother could be?
6. How could the wider community help Hope and her father during this dry season?
7. Hope wanted to do a dance to make the rains come. What else could she have done?
8. Why do you think Hope decided to do what she did?
9. What do you think would have happened if Hope and her father had left home?
10. Why did it start to rain at the end? Was it going to rain anyways? What other factors could have been involved?
11. What does this story mean to you? How does it relate to your life?
12. What are a few different ways you try to keep your hope alive when you're going through tough times? Life in this video is about growing most of the food you eat. How would your life change if you had to grow your own food?

- Make a 'drought to crop' chain of hope. This is similar to a food chain. On separate strips of paper, write the things that are needed to change a situation of drought to one of harvesting food. Tape each strip together to make a link. Interconnect the strips in successive links, so that the chain moves from drought to hope to harvest.
- Create a picture collage of people or things that give you hope.
- Make rain sticks. Stick toothpicks through the center of a cardboard tube to simulate cactus needles. Cover the bottom end and secure the base with packing tape. Pour in about ½ cup of rice or sand. Cover the top end, secure it with packing tape and decorate. Practice tilting it slower and faster to get different rain sounds.
- Recreate the Rain storm simulation from the beginning, but include several rain sticks in it. Or, use them to accompany a favourite song about rain.

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