



YOUTH

Mission ideas for Young People

The HOPE Revolution is all about seeing young people get out of their comfort zones for Jesus and expressing his love through what they say and do. We want to see young people take risks for Jesus, becoming 'Change Agents' in their communities and living the radical adventure that is being a disciple of Jesus Christ. Here are some harvest mission ideas particularly suitable for young people.

Invading the streets over harvest

Here are a number of ideas to see your young people get completely uncomfortable for Jesus this harvest season, by taking an expression of God's love and our thankfulness to the streets and to the heart of our communities.

'Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread'

A great idea to meet a practical physical need over a lunchtime period.

What's the idea?

The earth is satisfied by the fruit of his work . . . wine that gladdens the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread that sustains his heart (Psalm 104:13,15).

Create an opportunity for a group of young people to take to the streets one lunchtime where they set up a stall to make sandwiches to be given away. This can act as a reminder of God's provision and goodness to us, that he does indeed provide our daily bread. The stall could display scriptures such as Psalm 104:13,15, and young people can use this as an opportunity to express God's love that is made free to all.

Things to consider

- Prepare clear signage for good visibility.
- Hygiene: ensure antibacterial hand wash is used and visible as well as catering gloves and aprons worn by all.
- Utilise cool boxes to keep fillings fresh.
- Provide ample table space for sandwich preparation.
- Pre-prepare all sandwich fillings, grated cheese, ham slices, egg mayonnaise, sliced cucumber, sliced tomato, diced lettuce, with salad cream and dressings available. Provide sandwich bags and napkins.
- Provide information on harvest services or church activities, such as Alpha, to customers.
- A number of young people could be available for conversation whilst others are preparing sandwiches.

Thankfulness Expressions

An opportunity to encourage the community to reflect on the things for which they are thankful, and to remind them that all good things come from God.

Praise the Lord 'who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's' (Psalm 103:5).

What's the idea?

Get your young people together for an afternoon, where they take to the streets with a 'thankfulness' sign and flipcharts. Young people can ask passersby to write on the flip chart something for which they are most thankful, allowing participants to consider being thankful to God.

Things to consider

- Having publicity to hand out for youth clubs and church events.
- Giving out flyers which provoke thought about God's goodness to us.
- Offer to pray a blessing upon people, that they may know more of God's goodness and the fullness of life.

- Find creative ways of displaying suggestions. Perhaps have the word ‘thankfulness’ written in large letters, with participants suggestions being written on Post-it notes and stuck on to the letters.
- Give out sweets as a ‘thank you’ for participating.
- Have Gospels available for those who engage at a deeper level.

Harvest ‘Fruits of the Spirit’ Stall

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22).

Challenge your young people to offer prayer to passersby who recognise their need for differing fruits of the Spirit.

What’s the idea?

Set up a harvest ‘Fruits of the Spirit’ stall with nine different sections of fruit labelled love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control. Ask passersby if they would like a free piece of fruit, and to choose one which represents something they would like more of in their life at this time. Offer them the chance to receive prayer to know and receive more of their particular chosen fruit of the Spirit, and let them know that this is something that God gives to us.

Things to consider

- Perhaps a local supermarket or grocer would be prepared to discount or even supply you with some free fruit.
- Present your stall well, with the fruits clearly shown and labelled.
- Young people to act like market stall traders, calling out ‘Amazing fruit that can last for ever! Come and get some life-changing fruit here!’
- Use sweets such as rosy apples and lemon sherbets instead of fruit to save space and money.
- Pray blessing over the passersby.
- Give fruit to people who are homeless and talk about the fruits of the Spirit with them.
- Invite people to a Youth Alpha course where the Holy Spirit is explained in more detail.

£5 Giveaway

An opportunity for young people to be creative in ways to bless others.

What’s the idea?

Get your young people into groups of two or three and challenge them to bless members of their community by spending £5 in the most creative and beneficial ways. Use this as an opportunity to direct any thankfulness for the actions to God.

Things to consider

- Seeking God’s guidance and leading on who and how to bless.
- Buying cards to thank people in the community for the things they do.
- Giving away ‘Love Heart’ sweets to let people know they are loved.
- Buying £1 umbrellas for those who may be getting wet.
- Buying a meal for a homeless person.
- You will need to complete a full risk assessment and put in place clear boundaries for the young people.
- Approach the church to financially back this event, putting aside the necessary money.
- Get the young people to do a fundraising event to raise the money to be given away.

Invading the Community During Harvest

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind . . . Love your neighbour as yourself (Matthew 22:37–39).

An opportunity for young people to be challenged to love and serve their local communities through what they say and what they do.

Harvest ‘Mowing and Reaping’

An occasion for young people to do a random act of kindness for the residents of their local community.

What’s the idea?

For young people to offer a free lawn-mowing service, emphasising our call to care for God’s creation and using it as an opportunity to bless their local community.

Things to consider

- How could the people most in need of help be targeted?
- Wearing T-shirts profiling the initiative for maximum visibility in the community.
- Using this time to pray for the occupiers of the house, and to inform them about church activities.

Risk assessments should be completed to ensure all necessary safety precautions are taken, e.g. using circuit breakers, safety training for using lawn mowers, activity to be completed in small groups with adequate level of supervision.

Further ideas

How about offering in addition: fence painting, raking up leaves, garden clearing and general garden maintenance?

Harvest Sports Competition

An opportunity to celebrate our health and give thanks for our bodies, involving young people in community sports challenges and competitions.

What's the idea?

Hold a half-day harvest sports event, giving young people the opportunity to engage in a variety of sports and competition. Use this as an opportunity to build relationships and bless the youth of the community, whilst empowering your youth to lead and facilitate these activities.

Things to consider

- In addition to a football, hockey or rounders competition, consider having some 'harvest-themed' specific challenges that could utilise food, e.g. food eating challenges, relays involving a variety of foods, etc.
- Conclude the activity with a barbecue (for a small fee).
- Give away trophies, medals, prizes and/or certificates.
- Utilise sports that can draw in all ages and both genders.
- Have a prayer team praying for the young people who participate.
- Develop a regular sports activity for the community.

Other community activities could involve litter picking, graffiti clearing, fence painting, and could serve local community centres, schools, residential homes as well as individuals and families in the community.

Invading Your School During Harvest

Why not use harvest as an opportunity to thank our schools and teachers for all they do to support young people? Additionally, how about expressing thankfulness for God's creation and all of the earth's provision in our schools and use it as an opportunity to bless those less fortunate than ourselves?

School Food Hampers

What's the idea?

Challenge your young people to an initiative inviting pupils in their schools to provide hampers of non-perishable foods for the vulnerable in the community.

Things to consider

- Think about how you can get teachers and the school onboard with this initiative.
- Perhaps a letter to go out to all students following an assembly devoted to 'Harvest'.
- Get your Christian Union to deliver the assembly, or involve local youth leaders in the project.
- How about consulting with the local authority to identify suitable projects to support, such as a women's refuge centre, a local project for homeless people, a local project reaching out to the elderly, etc.

24-hour Fast

A 24-hour fast could be a great way to raise money for a local, national or international project that helps feed people who are in need.

- Participants could fast for just one meal if they weren't able to do the full fast, or could fast from another activity for a longer period (e.g. not buying chocolate or fast-food for a week and donating the saved money).
- If you ran the fast through a school, consider putting on an activity over the lunch period such as a prayer time for people who are starving in parts of the world.

- As alternatives to a full fast, young people could:
 - eat half portions of their meals and donate the money saved
 - exchange their dinner money for a piece of fruit or a protein bar
 - be encouraged to donate their change from their lunch.

Bless Your Teacher

Use harvest as an opportunity to thank your teachers for their investment in you, to show your respect and appreciation for all that they do.

- Buy them some chocolate or flowers.
- Write them a card of personal thanks.
- Get the whole class to present a gift, flowers or card, explaining that harvest is a time of thanksgiving.
- Ask if there is a task that your class could do to help them.
- Leave an anonymous gift on their desk.
- Get your homework in on time!