



A HEART LIKE HIS

Helping the Hungry and Homeless

Scripture: “For when you saw me hungry, you fed me. When you found me thirsty, you gave me something to drink. When I had no place to stay, you invited me in, and when I was poorly clothed, you covered me. When I was sick, you tenderly cared for me, and when I was in prison you visited me.” Matthew 25:35-36

Did you know?

In the United States:

- 43.1 million** Americans live below the poverty level
- 549,000** Americans are homeless on a typical night
- 42 million** Americans are at risk of suffering from hunger
- 1 in 5** children in the U.S. live in poverty

Worldwide:

- 795 million** people do not have enough to eat
- 767 million** people live on \$1.90 a day or less
- 6** children die each minute of a hunger-related disease
- 65.3 million** refugees have been driven out of their homes

Reflect upon these words:

Every day in my everyday world,
I hear myself say I'm lost and forlorn,
does God hear me today?
I wonder am I old and in the way?
Am I too young to know things I should say?
The world on my corner then opens to show
One with a sign, no place to stay.
One needing food to keep hunger at bay.

I feel in my pocket, filled with spare change.
I could do more, brighten their day.
Share some food, give something to eat.
Ask how they're feeling, hear their reply.
Give them a coat to help them stay dry.
A tiny spark of hope that can bring me joy, too.
Every day in my everyday world,
It's the least that I can do.

A time of prayer:

Give us a heart like Yours, Lord Jesus: A heart that hungers and feeds. Then we might fill pantries, plates, and people in our everyday lives with the Heavenly manna of You.

Give us a heart like Yours, Lord Jesus: A heart that provides and cares. Then, we might build relationships in our everyday lives that show everyone there is shelter in You.

Give us a heart like Yours, Lord Jesus: A heart of unconditional love. Then we might find ways, every day in our everyday lives, to serve others for You.

With a heart like Yours, Lord Jesus, we can sustain Your world. Hear us as we pray. Amen

Personal actions steps:

- Be aware. There are hurting and hungry people right around us. Have you thought lately about the provisions in your pantry, and those people who have none in theirs?
- Be intentional. Your giving to Good Shepherd supports ministry partners that focus on hunger and homelessness both in our community and around the world.
- Be invitational. Invite a family in need over for dinner. Invite others to serve with you at Hesed House, Feed My Starving Children or Loaves & Fishes to increase awareness.
- Be Ready. Make a blessing bag and be ready for the next opportunity to bless someone in need when you encounter them.
- Be accountable. Scripture eliminates any ambiguity. Jesus tells us in Matthew 25:45 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for the least of these, you did not do for me.' An opportunity to serve another is one of the richest experiences that life has to offer.

Action steps to impact my community and world:

- Bring a 42oz canister of Oatmeal for Loaves and Fishes collection
- Sign up for upcoming serving opportunities with Hesed House, Loaves & Fishes or Feed My Starving Children (at door 1 on Sunday and Wednesday)
- Take an empty blessing bag (at door 1 on Sunday and Wednesday) and fill it with the suggested content for distribution

Ministry partners that are present this week. Stop by our table at the main entrance to learn more about Good Shepherd Ministries that support the hungry and homeless:

- Hesed House
- Loaves & Fishes
- Feed My Starving Children (FMSC)

Reflection written by Linda Elaine. Prayer written by Dodi Dolendi. Facts provided from <https://hhweek.org/hunger-and-homelessness>. For further details about mission partners and ways to get connected, please contact Jeannine Allen, at jallen@goodshepherd-naperville.org