



GIVING CALENDAR

Fill the Ark

A guide for those who want to make a difference in the lives of struggling families around the globe

You can express God's abundant love in your life by giving to others. Heifer International's Fill the Ark program offers individuals and families an opportunity to learn about—and offer a helping hand to—families around the world. If you participated in this program in the past, you know how exciting it can be for your children and your congregation. If you're new, get ready for a spiritually rewarding way to make a difference.

Fill the Ark is a daily missions-giving program that spans four weeks. It offers real-life solutions to world hunger and shows that one person, one family or one congregation can make a difference in today's world. As you fill a Giving Bank with money you've saved, you'll learn how your gifts can share God's love and end hunger and poverty around the world. And maybe you'll have some fun, too. What better way to begin a new tradition?

An Ark for Today's World

Heifer provides dozens of different species of animals—from ducks and goats to llamas and geese—to people in need around the world.

Heifer projects are designed to protect the environment by improving soil quality, preventing erosion and promoting forest health. By improving the soil, water and air, Heifer project partners create a more

productive and healthy habitat for both animals and humans.

As it was with Noah, the ark is about hope and a new beginning. For Heifer families, animals can provide:

- Nutritious food like milk, eggs and meat
- Income for housing, health care, school fees and other needs
- Motivation to plant trees and grass and make other environmental improvements
- A catalyst for community development
- Small business development training

Since 1944, Heifer has helped more than 22.6 million families in more than 125 countries move toward greater self-reliance through gifts of livestock and training in environmentally sound agriculture. The impact of each initial gift is multiplied as recipients agree to pass on the gift of one or more of their animals' offspring, or the equivalent, to another in need.

To help the greatest number of families move toward self-reliance, Heifer does not use its limited resources to track gift animals from donation to distribution. Gifts made through this program represent a gift to the entire mission. We use your gifts where they can do the most good by pooling them with the gifts of others to help transform entire communities. And, because you are helping Heifer fight hunger and poverty, your gift is tax deductible.

THE STORY OF NOAH

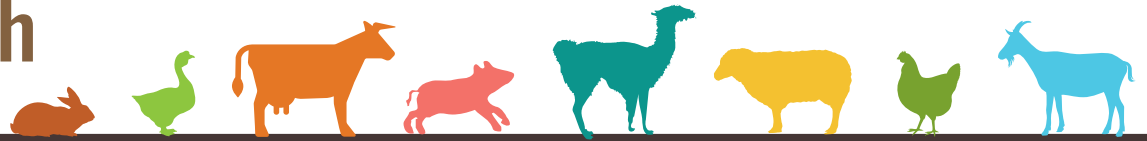
(The story of Noah and his ark can be found in Genesis 6-9)

Noah built the ark because of a crisis brought on by human sinfulness. Safe in the ark's haven, humans and every living thing inside weathered the storm. The rainbow was a sign that God will preserve the rhythm of planting and harvest and provide animals and plants as sustenance for humankind as long as the Earth endures.

That's why the Fill the Ark project exists. Today, we humans again threaten God's creation. Today's flood takes the form of war, environmental destruction, and massive poverty and hunger—all problems created by greed and injustice, all problems that can be resolved with love and action.

As Noah drew upon faith and hope, so we must draw on faith and hope to build a future without hunger and with a healthy environment. Your household can be a rainbow for many families in the world today.

Preparing For Launch



The calendar is divided into four weeks, one week on each page. Each day has a different emphasis and lesson.

Set aside a time to read each day's lesson. It's important that everyone in your home participates. After reading the day's lesson, determine how much money to place in the Giving Bank. If there are children in your family who earn an allowance, you may want to increase their allowance temporarily to allow them to participate more fully. This approach teaches selfless giving and reinforces the biblical admonition to share from one's abundance.

Make a ceremony of each person placing his or her gift into the Giving Bank. Say a prayer—or even better, have one of the children say a prayer—that the money will be used to help another family somewhere in the world.

Goal Setting

You may want to set goals for specific animals for your household or congregation's contribution toward an ark. It is important to help each person understand that the money he or she gives becomes the difference between a life of hope and a life of despair for families in need.

On the right are a few Heifer animals your household or congregation could give through Fill the Ark. In addition, we've included a suggestion or two to help you celebrate reaching your goal for that animal.

CHICKS—Stick a feather in an old straw hat for every dollar you raise. Wear the hat to church when you reach your goal.

COWS—Ring a cowbell every time you receive \$1 (or \$2, \$5, etc.). When you reach the grand total, pass out small bells that everyone can ring in celebration.

FISH—Pin a net to a bulletin board in your home. Add a paper or toy fish for every gift in your Giving Bank. Make a sign that reads "A Great Catch—Heifer Fish" to go over the bank.

GOATS—On poster board, outline a mountain peak (triangle). At the tip, draw a goat with no legs. Each week, after reading Sunday's ark emphasis (see calendar pages) add a leg to your goat to represent the week's giving.

LLAMAS—Llamas love to climb, so hold a "Hike for Heifer." Trek up a hill or a mountain. Ask others in your congregation to join you. Those who are unable to hike could be sponsors.

A TRIO OF RABBITS—Decorate a table with clay pots and baskets of fruit, flowers and vegetables. If there are young children in your home, read *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*.

SHEEP—If there are children in your home, write "Heifer Sheep Are 'Shear' Joy!" on a large piece of paper. Ask them to draw a happy sheep each week as part of the Sunday devotional time.

WATER BUFFALO—Ask members of your household to list every load-pulling item they own (car, riding mower, tractor, bicycle, skates,

wheelchair, etc.). Request \$1 for each one. Ask children to name toys and sports equipment (wagon, tricycle, merry-go-round, etc.). Request 25 cents for each one.

PACKAGE OF SEEDLINGS—Have your congregation hold a plant, produce and pie sale. Ask gardeners to plant extra vegetables, sprout seeds and prepare cuttings. Ask non-gardeners to prepare jams, dry fruit, make potpourri or bake fruit pies.

THE GIFT ARK—A gift ark launches a boatload of hope for hungry people and the Earth. The \$5,000 you, your family or your congregation gives will represent pigs, water buffalo, guinea pigs, trios of ducks, flocks of chicks, oxen, cows, rabbits, donkeys, beehives, sheep, llamas, flocks of geese and goats.

We want to hear from you! What did your household or congregation do to celebrate? Send us your comments, newsletter clippings and ideas about the Fill the Ark program. Just go to www.heifer.org/whencowsfly and select "Share Your Story."



Week 1

They and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creep upon the Earth ... They went into the ark with Noah.

GENESIS 7:14-15 (NRSV)

SUNDAY • The Gift of Hope

The most important gift people receive from Heifer is one they can't see, feel or smell. It's the gift of hope. Because of your donation, lives can be restored. Families can become self-supporting again. And they can share their hope with others by Passing on the Gift®. Hope is contagious, and it starts with your gift. Thank you for giving families new hope as they learn to feed themselves and care for the Earth.

For your Fill the Ark contribution today, why not add the cost of a meal at your favorite restaurant?



MONDAY • Bees

Heifer gives beehives to families in Guatemala. Honey and wax from the hives provide income and can be used for medicine.

Where's the honey jar? Add 25 cents for every jar of honey in your kitchen.



TUESDAY • Cows

To increase nutrition levels and family income through milk and butter sales, Rwandan families receive pregnant heifers that will give them delicious milk and improve their income.

Got milk? Add 15 cents if you have chocolate milk in your refrigerator, 20 cents if there is white milk.



WEDNESDAY • Goats

Humans have relied on goats for their milk, meat, hair and hide for thousands of years. Because goats are friendly and affectionate, caring for them is often considered a good chore for children.

Do you like cheese made from goat milk? If so, give 15 cents. If not, give 20 cents.



THURSDAY • Chickens

Chickens are easy to care for and come with plenty of perks. Families in Bangladesh raise flocks for protein-packed eggs and meat. When sold at market, the chickens and their eggs can also boost incomes.

What's in the fridge? Add 5 cents for every egg you find in your refrigerator, or 50 cents for every dozen.



FRIDAY • Disaster Rehabilitation

When super typhoon Haiyan slammed the Philippines in November 2013, more than 4 million people were displaced and 6,300 lost their lives. Heifer met families' basic needs, such as food, water and medicine.

Lights out! Have you experienced an electrical outage due to weather? If yes, give 10 cents. If not, give 25 cents.



SATURDAY • Vegetables

By growing vegetable gardens, youth living amid violence and poverty learn valuable entrepreneurial skills while contributing to their household income.

Does ketchup count? For every different kind of vegetable in your refrigerator, add 10 cents.



Week 2

**The Earth is the Lord's and
all that is in it, the world,
and all who live in it.**

PSALM 24:1 (NRSV)

SUNDAY • Protecting Nature

Heifer stresses the need to protect our planet. We strongly support "buffer zones" around rain forests and other tropical areas; our programs teach farmers to raise animals and grow trees and grasses. This training helps ensure that people do not disturb the protected forests, home to precious water supplies and many endangered species.

Buy coffee? Why not add the cost of your daily brew as your Fill the Ark contribution today.



MONDAY • Tree Seedlings

Trees enrich the soil and clean the air we breathe. There are many kinds of trees, and Heifer families around the world plant them for a variety of reasons, including delicious fruit and as a measure to prevent erosion.

How many trees do you have at your house? Add a nickel for every one you see.



TUESDAY • Rabbits

Rabbits are a good choice for families with small amounts of land. Rabbits can live in small, confined areas and eat available grass. And they can be moved in a basket if necessary.

What's up, Doc? Give a nickel for each carrot in your refrigerator.



WEDNESDAY • Fish

In Vietnam, there is plenty of water, but fish are scarce. After receiving tilapia fish fingerlings supplied by Heifer, women built a pond and filled it with fish. Now everyone is eating well and all share in the fishy harvest.

Are you a swimmer? Add 20 cents if you can swim.



THURSDAY • Fertilizer

Purely organic, manure improves the soil and can dramatically increase a family's garden production. Compost made from manure holds moisture and prevents erosion.

Do you compost? Add 10 cents if you do, 25 cents if you don't.



FRIDAY • Irrigation Pumps

Irrigation pumps, or treadle pumps, are an easy and affordable way for farmers to water crops. This amazing invention costs less than a motorized pump and is more efficient than fetching water from faraway streams.

How many water faucets does your house have? One or two? Give 15 cents. Three or more? Give 10 cents.



SATURDAY • Guinea Pigs

In Ecuador, guinea pigs provide an easy-to-manage protein source and a source of income. This animal is enabling many families to become self-supporting in this South American nation.

Animals are valued in every land. Add 25 cents for every pet you have. If you only have stuffed animals, add 10 cents for every animal.



Week 3

**But God remembered Noah
and all the wild animals
and all the domestic animals
that were with him in the ark.**

GENESIS 8:1 (NRSV)

SUNDAY • Caring for Others

Noah was called to care for those on the ark. Many people of faith have set a lifetime example of helping others less fortunate. Heifer was founded on this model of sharing and caring. Its work around the globe offers a hand-up to people who want to improve their family's life and the lives of those around them. It's a slow process—but effective and enduring.

Do you help around the house? Donate your allowance as your Fill the Ark contribution today.



MONDAY • Biogas Stoves

Biogas stoves run off methane gas captured from animal waste. Unlike cooking over an open fire, clean-burning biogas doesn't pollute the air families breathe.

Who does most of the cooking in your house? If it's a grown-up, add 25 cents. If it's you or your siblings, add 15 cents.



TUESDAY • Llamas

Llamas are sometimes called "camels of the clouds" because they are essential to indigenous people in the mountains of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. Besides being hardy pack animals, they supply wool, hides, fat for making candles and manure pellets for fuel.

Llamas carry things; do you? Add 25 cents if you have a backpack.



WEDNESDAY • Education

For many families, limited resources make it hard to send their children to school. Girls are often denied an education when money is tight. Heifer helps families find a way to educate all of their children.

What's your favorite subject in school? Add 25 cents if recess or lunch. Add 15 cents for anything else.



THURSDAY • Business Entrepreneurs

Heifer farmers often turn their talents and skills into money-making enterprises. Some entrepreneurs sell goods. Others, like animal health workers, sell services.

What do you want to do for a living when you grow up? Add 15 cents if you have a good idea what you'll do. Add 10 cents if you're still figuring it out.



FRIDAY • Ducks

A duck can lay 300 large eggs a year, and families can raise whole flocks at a time. Now, that's a lot of eggs! A wonderful source of protein, eggs are a popular food staple to sell at markets around the world.

Does your refrigerator have a carton of eggs? If no, give 15 cents. If yes, give 5 cents for every egg you have.



SATURDAY • Geese

Like ducks, geese are terrific egg-layers, but they have an added gift: warmth. Goose down and feathers can be used to make warm bedding and winter clothing.

Time for bed? Add 25 cents for every pillow in your bedroom. If you have a down comforter on your bed, add 50 cents.



Week 4

God blessed them, saying,
“Be fruitful and multiply and fill
the waters in the seas, and let
birds multiply on the Earth.”

GENESIS 1:22 (NRSV)

SUNDAY • [Passing on the Gift](#)

Each time you give, your gift doesn't stop with the recipient. Each family enjoys the dignity of becoming a donor by passing on the gift of one or more of its animals' offspring to a neighbor in need. This chain of life reaches thousands of families, as animals continue to grow and multiply.

Place a gift in the Giving Bank to show your appreciation for the blessings you have received this week...this month...this year.



MONDAY • Pigs

Pigs aren't picky. They'll eat just about anything! That's why they're a great, low-cost protein source for families with few resources. Pigs will gladly put away table scraps and out-of-date produce.

What's for breakfast? Add 25 cents if you've eaten bacon or sausage this week. None? Add 15 cents.



TUESDAY • Sheep

Sheep wool is warm and durable, and sweaters and other products made from wool can be sold for added income.

Do you go to sleep counting sheep? Add 25 cents if you go to bed on time most nights. Add 50 cents if you do not.



WEDNESDAY • Alpacas

Alpacas look like small llamas and are commonly raised by families in the Andes mountains of southern Peru. Alpaca fiber is used to make woven blankets and clothing, which can be sold for income.

Bundle up! Add 5 cents for every winter clothing item you can find in your closet.



THURSDAY • Women's Empowerment

If women farmers had equal access to resources, an additional 150 million people would have enough to eat. Heifer supports women's groups and trains families on gender equality to make that a reality.

How many amazing girls or women do you know? Give 5 cents for each one. If you are a girl, don't forget to include yourself!



FRIDAY • Water Buffalo

With a Heifer water buffalo, farmers in Asia can grow four times more crops than if they plow by hand. And, bonus—water buffalo manure fertilizer improves crops.

Let's get to work! If you help your parents or neighbors with yard work, add 10 cents. If not, add 25 cents.



SATURDAY • Animal Health Worker

Community Animal Health Workers, or CAHWs, take care of their neighbors' livestock when they aren't well. A CAHW is a lot like a veterinarian. Heifer trains CAHWs all over the world to provide expert medical care to livestock.

Do you take your pets to a vet for check-ups? If you do, add 20 cents. If you don't, add 25 cents.



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