Bonus Activities

All Ages

Enjoy a Healthy Snack: Gather a fruit or vegetable tray, plates, napkins and cups or bottles of water. Give each child a plate and encourage them to pick the fruits and veggies they want to try. Talk about how Jessica Hearne and volunteers at Grace and Main take care of their garden so that they can have fresh fruits and vegetables to eat.

All Ages

Plant a Garden: Gather vegetable seeds, pots, water, potting soil, spoons and cups. Encourage children to place potting soil in their pots and plant vegetable seeds according to the directions on the seed packets. Pour some water into a cup and help children water their seeds. Talk about how seeds need sunlight and water to grow. Ask children to talk about what they need to grow.

Older Children

Run a Wheelbarrow Race: Pair up children. Encourage one child to be the wheelbarrow and one child to steer the wheelbarrow (the "wheelbarrow will walk on their hands while the other child carries their feet). Talk about how working in a garden doesn't require much equipment. A wheelbarrow can help you carry dirt to use for fruits and vegetables.

Pathlight

www.cbf.net/pathlight

CBF's *Pathlight* curriculum helps children explore the Good News of Jesus through stories, scripture and activities.

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Pathlight

Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk. **Psalm 119:105 (CEV)**

Theme Overview

Jessica Hearne, CBF field personnel in Danville, VA, works with an ecumenical community at Grace and Main, including their community garden ministry. She and her husband, Josh, work alongside people to teach long-term solutions for food and housing insecurity, ways to help the earth and how to nourish their bodies and souls. This session focuses on the theme of friendship.

Bible Verse

Matthew 5:14-16

You are the light for the whole world. A city built on top of a hill cannot be hidden, and no one lights a lamp and puts it under a clay pot. Instead, it is placed on a lampstand, where it can give light to everyone in the house. Make your light shine, so others will see the good you do and praise your Father in heaven.

Session Outline

Prepare

- Make copies of the Student Handout.
- Review the Story and Bible Verse.

Welcome

- Greet students as they arrive.
- **Ask**: "Who are the people who are important to you?"

Engage

- Distribute the Student Handout.
- Read and discuss the Bible Verse.
- Work on the Handout Activity.
- Transition to Story Time.

Share

- Tell the Story, "Thanking God for Community."
- Share the photo and caption.
- Discuss the Story and pray.

Conclude

- Lead students in Bonus Activities as time permits.

Thanking God for Community

As Jessica Hearne weeded the community garden, she began to think about all that Grace and Main had accomplished. When she and Joshua came to Danville, VA, they decided to put down roots and really get involved in their community. So many people, particularly children, were dealing with hunger and homelessness, and they knew they needed to find a way to help. Grace and Main has been that way. They have created Bible studies, a large community garden, and more. Jessica works through Grace and Main to help others have enough to eat and a safe place to live. And through working in the community garden and getting out in nature, people are finding new hope, both in the new life that grows out of the garden and through the Creator of it all. As Jessica pulled up more weeds, she said a prayer, thanking God for this special community. She knew that Grace and Main had helped many people have enough to eat and places to live, as well as a place to belong. Friendship and being in a community could mean the difference between being alive and living. There had been many changes in Danville in the last 15 years. And Grace and Main changed too, so that they could better serve their community. But through it all, they remained a community, a place to belong and a place to help others. A place where everyone came together when someone was in need, and everyone shared what they had. Jessica thanked God for this special place.

Discussion and Prayer *

- **Ask**: How does Grace and Main help others?
- **Ask**: What do you think the difference is between being alive and living?
- **Ask**: How does our church help others have enough?
- **Say**: Grace and Main helps others have enough to eat and to have healthy foods through their community garden. They also help people have safe places to live and help them find hope. They help people live good lives instead of just trying to stay alive.
- **Pray**: Dear God, please help Jessica Hearne as she works to help others at Grace and Main. Help their garden to produce a lot of food so that everyone can have healthy foods to eat. Thank you for our friends and the people who help us. Amen.

Jessica Hearne

Jessica Hearne, CBF field personnel in Danville, VA, works with an ecumenical community at Grace and Main, including their community garden ministry.

STUDENT HANDOUT
SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

Pathlight

Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk. Psalm 119:105 (CEV)

Learn About

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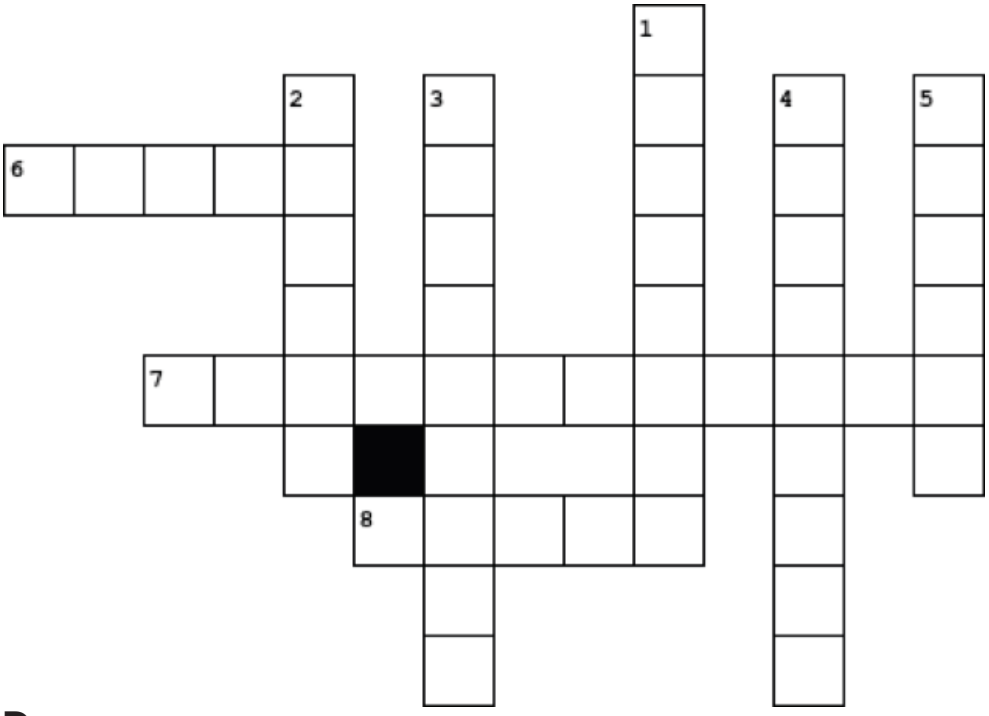
The Gifts of Community Crossword Puzzle

Use the word bank to fill in the clues and learn more about Grace and Main.



Down

1. Where Jessica and Joshua Hearne live
2. A food _____is a place where no grocery stores are located within a mile from a neighborhood.
3. What the Hearnes do to help people in their community know how to grow food
4. A group of people who care for one another and help each other
5. A place where you grow fruits and vegetables

Across

6. _____ and Main, the community that the Hearnes have created
7. A combination of the words “permanent” and “agriculture,” it describes working with natural systems to help the earth
8. _____ study is how Grace and Main began

Word Bank

DANVILLE	GRACE	EDUCATION
GARDEN	BIBLE	PERMACULTURE
DESERT	COMMUNITY	