

Deuteronomy 8: 7 – 10

Talk:

The letters **H A R V E S T** were held up and we had to make words from these letters. The clues are below:

Out of the word HARVEST I wonder how many words you can make?

1. To own or possess
2. Where we might find flowers
3. What we stand on
4. What surrounds the UK
5. We had a lot of this during Summer 2022
6. Another word for rubbish
7. Speed at which things happen
8. To stop something happening
9. Se have these and so does corn
10. Not to have enough food
11. To offer something to other people

Here are the clues with answers:

1. **To own or possess** (The word *have* was held up)
We *have* so much – just look around the church, or your cupboards at home, or the supermarket shelves.
Yes – prices are going up – yet we still have a great deal – as we'll think about with the other words you've found. So much to thank God for ...
2. **Where we might find flowers** (The word *vase* was held up)
Included in what we have are flowers – where might we find them?
Let's be grateful for who work to grow, transport and arrange them
And usually – we stop and admire the beauty of flowers in a vase – let's remember to be thankful for all the other plants and animals we see around ...
3. **What we stand on** (The word *earth* was held up)
How about number three?
Think how so much of our food comes from the earth ...
And remember how we realised during the pandemic just how important the whole chain of food production is ... farmers, processors, HGV drivers, supermarkets

Then

4. **What surrounds the UK** (The word *sea* was held up)
Being in landlocked Shropshire – we could easily forget this ...
Those who bring in the harvest of the sea have a dangerous job

What about:

5. **We had a lot of this during summer 2022** (The word *heat* was held up)

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And this acted as a reminder about global warming. It affected our harvests to some degree – but much less than in some other countries.

And we're not affected as much as some by global warming leading to rising sea levels but:

God wants us to look after the world – so we need to pay attention to what we can do – which includes something to do with:

6. Another word for rubbish (The word *trash* was held up)

Let's not trash God's world by selfishness – be that litter, or being careless about our use of water or electricity, not by turning our food into rubbish that is thrown away.

And we need to act quickly – linked to our next two clues:

7. Speed at which things happen (The word *rate* was held up)

Remember that a harvest can fail quickly – but it has a long effect

Remember that we need to do all that we can to slow the rate of climate change

So where we can we need to stop harmful things happening

8. To stop something happening (The word *avert* was held up)

Supporting our two charities is part of this

Water Aid works to avert water shortages – to stop them happening and to provide clean, safe water

The Farm Community network supports farmers who are struggling on farms in this country. It helps them to be able to keep going – to avert a crisis

What about:

9. We have these and so does corn (The word *ears* was held up)

So we need to use our ears well – listen to what is needed for good harvests and to take what action we can to help ... Because we don't want any person or animal

10. Not to have enough food (The word *starve* was held up)

And so, there's a need throughout the world:

11. To offer something to other people (The word *share* was held up)

Keep this in mind as we listen to our Bible reading – this is what God said to the people of Israel – this is what God wants for all people:

Deuteronomy 8 verses 7 – 10 was then read

“For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.”

This is the Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God