



Recognizing the Reality of Hunger

Module **1**: Opening

Activity Level: Low

Goal: This simple discussion allows participants to explore personal realizations of hunger in their own lives.

Instructions for the Presenter: Welcome participants to the session on ELCA World Hunger. To invite people into the experience, choose one of the following prayers and/or hymns listed below or choose your own.

PRAYERS

1. Look with mercy, gracious God, upon people everywhere who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Rouse us from our complacency and help us to eliminate cruelty wherever it is found. Strengthen those who seek equality for all. Grant that everyone may enjoy a fair portion of the abundance of the earth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *ELW, additional prayers, social ministry, the oppressed, page 79*
2. Lord, we greatly rejoice: our souls exult in you. You cause the earth to bring forth food: we eat and are glad. And we beg you to cause righteousness to grow forth from the world that all peoples may live in strength and safety, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Share Your Bread, copyright 2000, ELCA, page 13*
3. Blessed are you, O Lord our God. Like a mother hen shielding her chicks, you nurture and protect us. We praise you for your care: blessed be God forever! Gather all the hungry and homeless, O loving God, under the warmth of your wings, and so give life to the world, that your name be praised now and forever. Amen. *Share Your Bread, copyright 2000, ELCA, page 16*
4. Good and gracious God, in the busyness of our days help us to not turn away from our neighbors in need. Grant us courage to stand with them, let our voice join with theirs, and let our actions reflect the example we have in your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.
5. Say a prayer yourself or invite a member from the group gathered to offer one.

SONG SUGGESTIONS FROM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP (ELW)

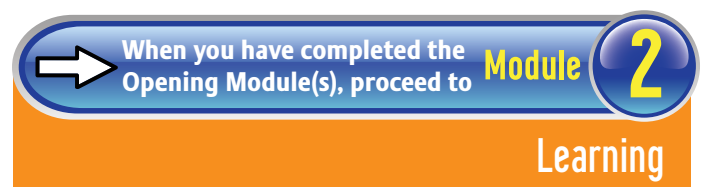
- ELW 710
Let Streams of Living Justice
- ELW 712
Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service
- ELW 720
We Are Called

Follow the instructions for this opening module, “Recognizing the Reality of Hunger” to help people think about and discuss hunger and poverty in our world and in our lives.

Begin by asking people this question:

“Can you remember when you first recognized that someone was hungry?”

Notes: Be prepared to sit in silence for several moments (at least one full minute) while people think and summon the courage to speak. Allow four or five people to share what experience comes to mind. Say ‘thank you’ after someone speaks, but do not respond with your own commentary on that person’s story. Allow about ten to fifteen minutes for this opening activity.



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