



Interactive Fairtrade Tea Prayer

Offer everyone a cup of Fairtrade tea



Ask them to take a minute to smell the aroma of the tea ... then to imagine the place where it was grown and the people picking it. You might then want to read the tea reflection printed on the back of this resource.

Ask people to pray for justice for tea farmers and plantation workers:



- for fair prices for their goods/fair wages for their labour
- for help adapting to the difficulties caused by climate change
- that they and their families may be able to access the goods and services they need
- that the UK government may take action to protect human rights, collaborate for change to make tea production fairer, and honour their international climate finance commitments.
- giving thanks for the ways Fairtrade improves working conditions, prices, wages, and environmental care in tea production

Offer everyone some Fairtrade sugar

Ask them to look at the crystals of sugar in the bowl, or to watch the crystals dissolve into the tea. Pray for all sugar farmers and farm workers - both those growing cane sugar in hotter climates and those growing sugar beet in the UK and other cooler climates.



You might want to read the sugar prayer at this point.

Offer everyone some form of milk



Ask them to look at milk in the jug, or at the patterns milk makes when poured into tea. You might want to read the 'Drop of milk' reflection. Pray for dairy farmers and for the people who grow the crops with which other milks (such as soy, oat, and rice) are made. Pray especially for farmers local to you. If you have farmers in your congregation, ask them how you can best pray for fairness in their context.

A Tea Reflection

Inspired by a quote from the Fairtrade Foundation's 'Brew It Fair: The People behind the Tea':

"With 19 years of experience as a Tea Leaf Plucker, Ms Vijaya Kumari has experienced the difference Fairtrade makes on her estate. This includes achieving one of her most important aims: providing a better education for her daughter than the one she received...."

Vijaya has been able to educate her two daughters using the Fairtrade Premium. Each child received funding for their education from the age of six, an amount that increased all the way up to college. Vijaya has been happy to see one daughter become an engineer, and the other a nurse."

You switch on the kettle,
Open the cupboard,
Reach for the box
Where the tea lives
And pick out a tea bag
To toss into a mug.

A simple gesture ...
That mirrors a worker's
As she plucked tea leaves
In South India's hills
And tossed them deftly
Into her basket

Looking forward to evening
When she would return home
And her daughters would tell her
About their school day:
The lessons they'd learned
Their ambitions, their plans

Which you helped them realise
When you chose Fairtrade -
A simple choice
That linked you,
Though you would never see them,
To millions of children's dreams.

A Sugar Prayer

Lord of all creation, Your rules are righteous and true, more precious than gold and sweeter than honey.

We bring before you all who participate in the sugar trade.

And we pray that the world's trade rules and practices may be ordered in accordance with your commands, so that farmers and workers receive a due reward for their labour and what brings sweetness to us does not bring bitterness to others.

A drop of milk

falls from the jug -
then, one after the other,
they stream to the mug's depths
and surface like clouds ...

the clouds that farmers
scan the summer sky
hoping to see and wondering,
each day they are absent,

how long until the grass
is stubble or the grains parch,
praying for the respite
of gentle rains,

the clouds that sometimes, too,
threaten to flood
those praying for strength and wisdom
to till the land and keep it,

earth-carers
in a changing world,
offering God and neighbour
the fruit of the land and their labour

and asking only justice in return.