



Interactive Fairtrade Chocolate Prayer

Offer everyone some Fairtrade milk chocolate

Buy some chocolate with the FAIRTRADE Mark on it. Ask people to take a minute to sniff and enjoy the chocolate's aroma ... then to imagine where the cocoa was grown and the farmers growing it. You might want to share some pictures from <https://fairtradeafrica.net/cocoa/>



Ask people to pray for justice for cocoa farmers:

- for fair prices for the cocoa they produce
- 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 and honour their international climate finance commitments.
- giving thanks for the ways Fairtrade farmers and workers are investing in their businesses, communities and environment

Show a bowl of Fairtrade sugar

Sugar is a key ingredient in milk chocolate. 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.



Show a jug of milk



Ask people to look at milk in the jug, or at the patterns milk makes when poured into cocoa (or tea or coffee). 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 Cocoa Reflection

With thanks to cocoa farmers who have shared their experiences over the years

First you plant the seed and tend it.
Shelter it. Water it.
Wait until the sapling is ready to plant
In soil you have prepared.

Then you surround it with plants
That will shade but not overcrowd it
And you wait for years,
Feeding the soil,
Watching branches and leaves grow,
Protecting them from insects,
As the tree matures
Until finally pods burst from the bark
And swell thick with seeds and fibres
And are ready to be picked.

Then you break open the pods
Scoop out the beans,
Spread them to dry on a table.
You turn them with your hands,
Running your fingers
Through the rich, brown harvest,
Sorting, searching out
The bean that is not quite right,
Cherishing the others.

And then you sell the beans
Hoping that the person choosing
Their children a treat
Will understand that your chocolate
Isn't just chocolate -
It's your village's children staying in
school,
Your daughter able to become a nurse,
Your aunt purchasing land of her own,
The victories that mean
That hope grows in your fields
Like the seeds you have planted.



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 some
does not bring bitterness to others.

A drop of milk

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

the clouds that farmers
scan the summer sky
hoping to see,
wondering, if clouds remain absent,
how long before the grass withers
or the grains parch,

praying for the respite of gentle rains,
praying that when rains do come
sheets of water
will not suddenly flood their fields,
praying for strength and wisdom
to till the land and keep it ...

earth's stewards
in a changing world,
offering the fruit of the land
and their labour

and asking only fairness in return.