

## WEEK 5

# CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY: FEED THE HUNGRY

In Madagascar, communities work together to ensure all their children have adequate nutrition. They are living out the corporal work of mercy feeding the hungry not only by making sure each family has enough food, but that each child has the *right* food to lead healthy lives.

CRS Rice Bowl supports families and communities experiencing hunger locally and globally. Your CRS Rice Bowl gifts help to live out this corporal work of mercy for millions of people around the world.

### A STORY OF HOPE FROM MADAGASCAR

Although Madagascar is one of the poorest countries in the world, the joy of its people is contagious, and their hospitality is overwhelming. The small communities that make up the country are tightly-knit, and they support each other through difficulties like climate change, chronic hunger and malnutrition.

Seasonal drought—which is becoming more severe and lasts longer each year—makes it difficult for families to harvest enough food to survive. One in every 2 children in Madagascar are undernourished. But with new farming techniques and knowledge about nutrition, that is changing. Community members are learning how to improve their farms, grow different vegetables and prepare more nutritious meals with training and support from CRS.

Aimee’s family has farmed their land for generations. They share a large plot of land and help each other plant and sow. Aimee recently learned new ways to plant her vegetables, which has led to bigger harvests—meaning more food and income for her and her family. She is also learning new ways to use her fresh produce to cook more nutritious meals for her children. Her 2-year-old son Marela loves the cassava and onion dish that Aimee prepares, and he eats all his food because it tastes so good.



Photo by Jim Sipe / CRS

Aimee sees that the food from her garden is helping her children grow and stay healthy. She is proud of her hard work and can see the fruits of her labor. She says, “What makes me happy is when I go to my garden and I see all the things that I’ve planted grow. When I see flowers or the greens, or when I see the first seeds sprouting, it’s like I’ve transferred a kind of power from my hands to the plants. That makes me happy.”

### FACTS TO CONSIDER:

- Madagascar is the second largest island country in the world—about the size of Texas. The northern and eastern parts of the country are covered in lush tropical rainforest while the southern part of the country is drier and experiences frequent droughts.
- Madagascar experiences severe natural disasters like cyclones, floods and droughts, which can make it difficult for families to access food.
- More than 50% of all households in Madagascar can be classified as food insecure, and 90% of the country’s population lives on less than \$2 a day. Many families are subsistence farmers or raise livestock.



For downloadable photos, visit [crsricebowl.org/photos](https://crsricebowl.org/photos) and watch the video from Week 5 at [crsricebowl.org/stories](https://crsricebowl.org/stories).

## CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY: FEED THE HUNGRY

45 MINUTES

### OBJECTIVE

Through the story of communities in Madagascar who are working together to ensure good nutrition for children, students will reflect on the corporal work of mercy feeding the hungry.

### MATERIALS

- Week 5 story (available at [csricebowl.org/stories](https://www.csricebowl.org/stories))
- Week 5 Activity Sheet: Grades 7-8 (available in this guide and at [csricebowl.org/1-8](https://www.csricebowl.org/1-8))

### DISCUSSION (15 MINUTES)

1. Ask students if they remember where Madagascar is or any facts about the country from Week 2.
2. Read the story from Week 5.
3. Reflect:
  - What stood out to you in this story?
  - Aimee's family has farmed for generations but needed new tools and extra support to successfully combat the challenges of climate change in her community. What can that teach us about people we encounter who experience hunger, poverty, homelessness or other struggles?
  - What are some ways our community can help feed the hungry?

### ACTIVITY (25 MINUTES)

1. Remind students about the corporal work of mercy feeding the hungry. People go hungry for many reasons. There are many factors that may limit the availability of food or access to food in a community, including natural disasters, human-made emergencies, epidemics, environmental

issues and low agricultural production. CRS tries to live out this work of mercy by providing food to those who need it in emergency situations and by helping people find ways to gain regular access to food.

2. You can use this time to continue planning or to execute your students' plan from Week 4 to feed the hungry. Or have students complete the Week 5 Activity Sheet: Grades 7-8.
3. If time permits, have the students share their ideas in small groups for what actions can be taken at each level to combat global hunger.

### CLOSING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

*Creator God,*

*You made the earth and all that lives on it. Thank you for the blessing of nature, which fills our world with beauty and nourishes us each day. Help us to care for the earth that you made and keep us mindful that we are all part of one human family.*

*Amen*

### AT HOME

1. Share your activity sheet with your family.
2. As a family, read the daily reflection found in your **CRS Rice Bowl Lenten Calendar**.

### IF YOU ONLY HAVE

**10  
MINUTES**

1. Read the Week 5 story.
2. Lead Discussion step 3.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Everyone has a role to play to end global hunger and malnutrition: at the individual, family, community, national and international levels. Fill in the circles below with actions that can be taken at each level to help ensure every person has enough nutritious food to thrive. Examples have been provided.

