

Sowing for the Future: Youth Resource

Background for Leaders

SAMS Ireland believes that as Christians, we are called and equipped by the Holy Spirit to take part in God's work in the world. This calling affects individuals, communities, and societies, showing God's kingdom in practical and life-giving ways.

"The Christian life isn't just lived in our heads; it's shared through our lips, hands, and feet."

Sowing for the Future: Growing Skills and Hope in Argentina

In 2025, the church in Northern Argentina launched the Sowing for the Future programme, led by Alec Deane. It combines education, food production, and nutrition across 45 rural schools in Salta's Chaco region, supporting around 4,500 children and young people from the Wichí Indigenous community.

Through green classrooms, students learn gardening, soil care, and nutrition. Wichí educators provide training, seeds, and tools to schools and families.

Key activities include:

1. Establishing school gardens
2. Installing irrigation systems
3. Distributing seeds to schools and families
4. Hands-on learning in the gardens

The programme helps participants grow healthy food and work towards a sustainable future.

Growing in the Word of God

Chris and Helena Wallis have spent decades making God's Word accessible to Indigenous communities. Revd. Marcos Humacata is helping deliver Bible courses like Vida Abundante (Abundant Life) that are available in Wichí, helping children learn to follow Jesus. Many also attend Sunday School, deepening their understanding of God's love and teachings.

Impact of the Programme

- Students gain practical gardening skills and learn about nutrition, food security, and environmental care.
- Families join in, passing knowledge across generations.
- Communities become more resilient, even in challenging living conditions.
- Children develop a sense of purpose and hope, seeing themselves as part of God's work.

Story: Juan's Journey

Juan, a 9-year-old Wichí boy, loves the Garden School Project. Every day he learns to prepare the soil, plant seeds, and care for vegetables.

Through gardening, Juan discovers:

- The earth is God's gift, and we are called to use it wisely.
- Caring for the land helps others and provides healthy food.
- Working with others builds dignity and community.

Juan's confidence grows as he sees the difference he can make for his family and community. His story shows how investing in children brings practical skills, hope, and lasting impact.

Youth Activities

1. Quiz: Argentina

Choose the correct answer:

1. Argentina is on which continent? **South America / Africa**
2. What is the capital city of Argentina? **Buenos Aires / Sao Paulo**
3. What is the official language in Argentina? **Spanish / Portuguese**
4. How many times has Argentina won the world cup? **3 / 4**
5. Which dance is Argentina famous for? **Tango / Salsa**
6. Argentina is famous for having had most presidents in the shortest time. How many presidents did they have over the space of 10 days in 2001? **3 / 5**
7. How many indigenous languages does Argentina have? **12 / 15**
8. Argentina is home to the highest mountain in the Americas. What is the name of the mountain? **Aconcagua / Everest**
9. What is the currency of Argentina? **Peso / Sol**
10. Which film made about Argentina had the song "Don't Cry for Me Argentina?" **Evita / City of God**

2. Fun Introduction Games

Peel a Banana with Your Feet

- Volunteers peel a banana using only their feet.

Make a Sandwich with Your Feet

- Using bread, peanut butter, and jam, volunteers make a sandwich using only their feet.

Prizes can be given for speed or creativity!

3. Discussion Questions: Food

- How many times a day do you eat?
- What is your favourite food?
- Which food could you not live without?
- Where do you buy your food?
- Do you grow any fruits or vegetables at home?
- How much water does the average UK person use per day? (Approx. 142 litres)
- What would be hardest without running water?

Introducing the Project

Explain that in rural Northern Argentina, where rain is scarce and shops are few, the local church is helping children grow food and support their communities.

Ways to present the project:

- Video (Connor Diocese website)
- PowerPoint (Connor Diocese website)
- Juan's story (above)

PowerPoint Notes for Leaders

1. Map of South America

- Introduce the Wichí, an Indigenous people in the Gran Chaco region (northern Argentina, southern Bolivia, western Paraguay).

2. Language

- Most speak Spanish, but Argentina has 15 indigenous languages, including Wichí.
- Teach the children: "Jesus loves you" in Wichí.

3. Culture

- The Wichí are traditionally hunters and gatherers.
- Much land has been taken by ranchers, leading to deforestation and affecting survival.

4 & 5. Homes

- Made from local wood; some have electricity.
- Warm climate; cooking often done over fire outdoors.

6. Climate

- Temperatures up to 50°C.
- Prone to floods and droughts, causing crops to fail.

7. Food

- Fish, hunt, gather fruits and honey.
- Grow crops like sweet potatoes, cassava, beans.
- Keep chickens, pigs, goats; local shops sell basic goods.

8. Water

- Many areas lack running water.
- Families rely on wells and rainfall.

9. Wells and Irrigation

- Alec Deane's team digs wells and installs drip irrigation for crops.

10 & 11. Education and Gardens

- Almost 50 schools teach children to grow crops and establish gardens.

12. Church and Sunday School

- Children learn Bible stories and Jesus' love.

13. How We Can Help

- Pray for Wichí communities and church workers.
- Donate to provide seeds, tools, and resources.
- One day, we might even visit to serve directly.

Bible Story: Feeding of the 5,000

(Matthew 14:13–21; Mark 6:30–44; Luke 9:10–17; John 6:1–14)

Lessons:

1. Jesus didn't want people to go hungry; He cared for them.
2. He involved others—disciples and the boy with five loaves and two fish.
3. Sharing can be hard, but it blesses others and brings joy to us.
4. Churches in Argentina show Jesus' love through practical support and teaching His Word.

Reflection and Prayer: My Hands

Bible Passage - The Feeding of the 5,000

(Matthew 14:13–21; Mark 6:30–44; Luke 9:10–17; John 6:1–14)

Points that can be drawn out of the Bible Story.

1: There were a lot of people who had come to see Jesus, hear his teaching and be healed. The place was remote and the people were hungry.

What choices did Jesus have when faced with this situation? (Some possible examples are - He could have asked them to go somewhere else to get food / He could have kept teaching and let them stay hungry / He could have asked God to rain down food.)

What can we learn from Jesus that he didn't want the people to go away hungry?
Jesus cared deeply for the people and did not want anyone to be hungry; He wanted them to have enough to eat.

2: Jesus being God could have performed this miracle without any help from those who were present. He involved the disciples saying to them "You give them something to eat" and He accepted the food of the boy who was there and multiplied it.

What can we learn from Jesus that He involved others in the miracle?

Do you think He wants to involve his people, to involve us in the things he is doing in the world today?

What are some of the things we can share and ways we can serve Him and others?

God is all powerful. He cares for us and will provide for our needs yet he chooses to involve his children in what He is doing. He wants us to share our gifts and resources with Him and with others. He wants us to serve Him with what we have and share His love with others.

3: Do you think it was easy for the boy to give up his whole lunch to Jesus?

How do you think he felt when he had enough to eat, but also saw that everyone else had more than enough?

What would he have missed out on if he had kept the food for himself instead of sharing?

Do you agree with the phrase "It is more blessed to give than to receive."? Have you any examples of this?

It can be difficult to share, to give up our time, our money or our resources to help others. Yet when we do God is pleased, other people benefit and we also get joy and satisfaction from seeing how we have helped other people. The Bible encourages us to be generous towards those in need.

4: In Argentina, churches are sharing the love of Jesus through both practical support and teaching His Word.

How could we help and walk alongside them?

We can pray.

We can give of our resources so that those who are helping them in Argentina have what they need to be able to carry on this work.

Perhaps one day some of us could go ourselves to be part of this or something similar.

Reflection and Prayer: My Hands

1: In the story the disciples wanted to send the people away but Jesus said "You give them something to eat." He challenged them to care for others.

Give each person paper or card and ask them to draw around their hand or hands. To think about: Who are some of the people we can care for? Write them somewhere on the hand.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you that you care for us. Help us to care for others, both those we know and those we know about who we can show your love to. We lift up to you some of those we care about, mentioning their names to you in the silence of our heart.....

In Jesus Name. Amen.

2: In the story Jesus asked the disciples 'What have you got?

To think about: What are some of the things YOU have in your hands? (Gifts, talents, time, resources, your own heart and life.). Write a few of these on the hand.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for all the things you have given me, the things I have in my hands, such as my life, my talents, my resources. Help me to recognise that these are things you have given to me and that I can use them to help others.

3: The boy in the story had his lunch in his hands and he gave it to Jesus. Jesus took it and used it to feed and bless many people.

To think about: What do you think Jesus wants you to give to him? Choose one or two things and write these on your hand.

Prayer: Father , thank you that you love the world so much that you died to save us from our sins. Thank you for the privilege you give us of being able to show your love to others and to help and bless them through what we have. Today I want to commit to use my life to bless others. I want to do this through (in the silence of your heart name how.) In Jesus Name. Amen.