

# Harvest – On a Roll

## Harvest - On A Roll

Invite people to bring canned goods to be donated to a local food bank, then have some fun at your harvest event. Great for church service, school assembly, uniformed organisation, youth club, Messy Church etc

Note: Preferably cans with ring-pull tops, because not everyone has a can opener. Have some spares in case people have forgotten / can't afford to donate.

## Ruth's Story - On a Roll

In this all-age activity, we remember two things: to be grateful for what we have, and to show that we are grateful by looking after those in need.

In church, have a supply of cans at the outside edge of each row / pew. Every time the word ROLL is mentioned, the person by the supply rolls one can along the floor to the next person. The cans get passed along the row every time the word ROLL is mentioned. When they reach the aisle, the person at the edge rolls them to the front.

In a youth group / Messy Church, arrange everyone in a large circle, each with a can. Every time the word ROLL is mentioned, each person must roll their can to the next person. If anyone ends up with two cans or no cans, they are out. At the end, everyone rolls their cans to the front.



## Intro

Today, we are going to hear the story of Ruth. Ruth was a brave woman in a difficult situation. She was poor, she was a foreigner, she was a widow in a culture where women couldn't earn their own money. Today, she would have been at the food bank, but the food bank of her day was God telling people to look after the needy. And we'll hear about a man who does just that.

As I tell the story, I need you to listen out for the word ROLL. Every time you hear it, roll a can to the next person. *[Explain set up for your context]*

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## Ruth's Story

Ruth's husband had died, and as they **ROLLED** a huge rock across the tomb, big tears **ROLLED** down Ruth's face. "You should go home to your parents," said Naomi, the mother of Ruth's husband. "I am going back to my land, to Israel."

"I'll come with you," said Ruth. "Your people will be my people and your God, my God." She **ROLLED** up her cloak with all her belongs inside, and they set off.

When they reached Israel, they found a tiny house and **unROLLED** their blankets, but they had no food and no money to buy food. "What shall we eat?" said Naomi. "If only we had some wheat, I could make soft, tasty bread **ROLLs**."

"I will see if I can find some wheat," said Ruth and set off along to **RO...ad**. (I hope you didn't roll a can on that one. You have to listen carefully!)

Ruth arrived in a field belonging to a man called Boaz. He was working in the field with his servants. They were harvesting the wheat and putting it in huge **ROLLs** around the field, tying it up with **RO...pes**. Ruth picked up any stalks of wheat they missed.

Ruth gathered wheat all morning and put it in her **ROLLED** up cloak. At lunchtime, she was hungry because she had no lunch. Boaz noticed Ruth. He knew she was from a foreign land and she had no money. "Come and sit with us," said Boaz. "God has given us this good food, so you must have some. Here, take a bread **ROLL** and some of this **RO...asted** grain." So Ruth sat on a **RO...ck** and ate bread **ROLLs** with Boaz.

After lunch, Boaz told the people on his pay**ROLL**, "Leave plenty of wheat spare, even drop some when Ruth will find it." At the end of the day, Ruth took her cloak back home to Naomi and **unROLLED** it. There was so much wheat inside! Naomi leapt around with joy and laughed out of contr**OLL**. "Now we will have plenty to eat," she said, and she made soft, tasty bread **RRRRR ... baps!**

Naomi discovered that the wheat had come from Boaz's field. "He is a relative!" she said, "God has helped us!" After that, it all gets a bit **RO...mantic**. There was probably a moonlit st**ROLL** and a red **RO...se**, but after much rigma**ROLL**, eventually Boaz and Ruth got married, they signed the wedding sc**ROLL** and lived happily ever after.

But that's not the end of the story. Ruth and Boaz's great-grandson was a man called David, King David, the one we sing about in Christmas ca**ROLLs**, and David was the great-great-great-...grandfather of Jesus, who reminded us to love God with all we have and to love others as we love ourselves, and who showed us how much God loves us with the wine and the bread ... wait for it ... **ROLLs**.

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## Tin Can Olympics

Just some silliness to show that we can have fun in church. You can make up your own events, too. Cans must be rolled - no throwing, dropping or tumbling. (They're going to be given away, so treat them nicely.)

### 'Foot'ball

Arrange two goals and place a football in the middle. Divide the cans and players into two teams (eg sweet/savoury, or soup/not soup). Players can only roll their own cans to try to knock the ball into the opposite goal.

### Slalom

Make a row of tin cans about 30cm apart (further apart for younger people). Time the competitors as they weave their tin can in and out of the row, using **ONLY THEIR NOSE!**

### Gymnastics

Arrange a straight row of cans. Competitors must get from one end to the other. Award points for style and grace, or for tricks such as standing on one foot, but deduct for touching the ground.

### Blind Archery

Arrange an arc of seven cans at one end of the room. From left to right, they score 1, 3, 5, 10, 5, 3, 1. The competitor is blindfolded and must listen to someone tapping the centre can to roll their can at the centre of the target.

### Bowling

Make skittles from half-empty plastic bottles and use your cans to bowl at them from the other side of the room. Adjust the amount of water to make it harder or easier.

### Ski Jumping

Make a ramp with a shelf and pile of old hymn books\* then players take turns to roll their tin down the ramp. The one that goes the furthest wins.

### Curling

Choose one tin to be the target. Competitors take turns rolling their can as close as possible to the target. Closest scores 3, next closest scores 1.

\* Oh, come on, we know you have some.

