



Trrring...! The doorbell rang. When Manpreet opened the door she saw Divya and Swastik there. She called out excitedly, “Gurnoor! Look who has come.” Gurnoor came running. When she saw her friends she hugged them happily. “When did you come from the hostel (Boarding School)?” “Just Yesterday. Where are your parents? We want to meet them,” Swastik said.

“They are at the *Gurudwara*. We were about to go there too,” Gurnoor replied. “Oh good, we will also come with you,” said Divya.

“You come home only in the vacations. Do you like staying in your hostel? You must be missing your parents,” Gurnoor asked.



In another vessel, the cauliflower and potato vegetable was being made. “There is your Papa! Gurnoor, let us go and meet him,” Swastik said.

“What are you doing here?” Manjit Singh was happy to see the children.

“Uncle, can we also help in the kitchen? What are you preparing?” Swastik asked.

Manjit Singh said, “I am preparing *kadhah prasad*. It takes a lot of effort to roast the flour in ghee in this big *kadhai*.”

“This is a kind of *halwa*. Isn’t it? When will you add sugar in it?” Divya asked.

They saw Manpreet’s mother and rushed to meet her. Divya asked, “What are you doing Aunty?” “*Beta*, we are rolling *chapaties* to bake them in this *tandoor*.” “So many *chapaties* at one go!” Divya was surprised. “Can I help?” “Sure! come and try, here everyone can help, but wash your hands first,” replied Aunty.



Divya washed her hands and joined the group near the *tava*. The *tava* was very hot. She started applying *ghee* on the *chapaties* as they were being taken out of the *tava*.

Swastik wondered aloud, “Who brings all the material to cook so much food?” One of the ladies answered, “Everyone here contributes in some way or the other. Some arrange for the material, some give money, and others help in the work”.

“So Swastik, how do you like it? Have you ever cooked before?” teased Manpreet.

“No, but I am enjoying working with everyone, ” said Swastik. We hardly realised how all this food – *chapaties*, rice, *halwa*, *dal* and vegetable – got prepared so fast.

After *ardaas*, *kadhah prasad* was distributed. Some of the boys quickly laid out *durries* in the verandah and all the people sat down in rows to have *langar*. Some people served food and others served water. Everyone ate together.

After finishing food everyone picked up one’s own plate, and put it in a big drum. People who were serving, ate in the end. They cleaned the place and washed the utensils.

Talk about it

🌀 The ‘cooking and eating together’ in a Gurudwara is called *langar*. Have you ever eaten in a *langar*? Where and when?



- ② How many people were cooking and how many were serving the food there?
- ② Are there other occasions when you have eaten with many people? Where and when? Who cooked and served the food there?



Different scenes from a Gurudwara langar