

# PRAYERS FOR PEACE IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

This is a simple-to-use resource for your children's work at church or in other groups. It is intended for children aged 3-10 but only parts of it will be suitable for younger children.

The first part is an introduction for you to read so that the children understand the situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) in a way that is appropriate for them.

## INTRODUCTION (TO BE READ/PRESENTED)

In Africa there is a very poor country called the Central African Republic. For many years some of the people have been fighting each other over control of the land. But most of the people would like it to be peaceful so they can live happy and safe lives.

The fighting has meant that lots of families (including many children) have had to leave their homes and jobs and go to live in tents in big camps where it's hard to find food and water.

Claudette (pictured) is a teacher who has had to leave home, and her school. She now lives in one of the big camps with lots of other people she doesn't know. Claudette doesn't always have enough food because there are so many people to feed.

*'I don't know when I will be able to go back home or how I will find a new home to live in,' says Claudette.*



Photo: Niek Stam/Tearfund

Claudette is sad that she's lost her home but she still wants to look after children. Even in the camp – where there are no classrooms, pens or paper – Claudette is teaching children to read and write.

## QUESTIONS FOR THE GROUP

What is your favourite thing at home?

How would you feel if you had to leave home really quickly?

What would it be like if you left all your favourite things behind?

If you had to leave home to live in a tent, what would you miss the most?

How can we pray for Claudette and the children living in camps?

# 'DOVE OF PEACE' CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

A dove (a beautiful white bird) is a Christian symbol of peace. In the Bible Jesus is known as the 'Prince of Peace'. That's because he wants all of us to love each other and share what we have together, and not fight with each other.

Print out the 'Dove of Peace' poster below. Encourage the children to colour in the dove with lots of bright and happy colours (like a rainbow) to show that they are praying for the people of CAR. They could include their name and age at the bottom, or even write a short prayer.

Then the children can take their doves home to display somewhere to remind them to pray regularly.

## Dove of peace

*This picture of a dove is to remind me to pray with my family for the Central African Republic*

