

Children's talk – speaker resources 2016

Introductory activity: Option 1

Before the service, hide the plastic ants in various places around the church so people can find them later. Also, make a pile of seeds at the front of the church clearly visible to the congregation. If hiding ants isn't an option in your church context, you could always fill a jar with seeds and sand, and hide the ants within this for people to dig into and find.

Explain to the congregation there are ants hidden in various places around the church. Ask for some volunteers to help find them. When someone finds one, ask them to bring it to the front and to put it on the pile of seeds. In return for their ants, give each volunteer a seed.

When all of the ants (or most of them if it's taking too long) have been found, ask one of the children to come to the front and to take one seed from the ant pile. Showing this to everyone, ask the child how they would feel if this were their Sunday lunch today.

Explain that in some countries around the world, people are so hungry they have to forage for seeds that ants have collected in their nests. Explain that, this morning, they will be learning about one of these places, as well as finding out what we can do to help.

Introductory activity: Option 2

Explain to the congregation you came out this morning without having any breakfast and now you are quite hungry. You picked up a nice cake on the way and thought you could have some now, just so your stomach won't rumble during the service.

Bring out the cake on a plate and show it to the congregation. Ask if anyone else would like a piece with you –hopefully there will be plenty of hands, particularly among the children. Begrudgingly offer to share the cake and ask one of the older children to come up and help you cut up the cake for everyone. Before you let the volunteer cut the cake, say you'll take a slice for yourself and then proceed to cut about a third of the cake and set it on another plate. Place that piece of cake in front of the child and pick up the remaining two-thirds of the cake as though it's a sandwich and proceed to eat it, while giving the child instructions on how many tiny pieces they'll need to slice their bit into.

This should all be quite funny. As you keep munching away, continue to comment on how very small everyone else's bit of cake is going to be –probably more like a crumb.

After a few moments, say you are now totally stuffed, but that you'll keep the remainder of your bit of cake for yourself later on. Thank your volunteer for helping, show their plate to the congregation, and tell them they can come and collect their crumb after the service.

Draw out the point that in the UK where we live, most of us have plenty to eat, even more than we need, whereas around the world there are places and people who do not have anywhere near enough. Explain that this morning you will be learning about one of those places, as well as finding out what we can do to help.

Where in the world?

Where are the places in the world where people do not have enough to eat? One of those countries is called Chad. Does anyone have any ideas where that might be?

Look together on the world map [*show a ppt slide of world map*]. Find the UK and then find Chad. Can anyone guess how far away it is from us? It's around 3,000 miles away.

What is Chad like? It's very hot and dry –the opposite of the UK.

What are the people like? Well, let's meet one of them now.

Show the picture of Yasmin to the children. Tell them her name and that she is six years old.

Ponder together if there might be things the children in your church have in common with Yasmin.

- She has brothers and sisters –does anyone here have brothers and sisters?
- Yasmin helps her mum at home –does anyone do that?
- Yasmin has friends in her village who she likes to play with –who likes to play with their friends?

So we have some things in common with Yasmin, but maybe there are some differences too.

How about this one:

When Yasmin asks her mum for food, her mum has to say no –because they don't have any. Yasmin's family don't have supermarkets to shop in. They grow their own food to eat. In order for the crops to grow, they need rain, but in the last two years the rains have not come and so the crops have not been able to grow at all, and so Yasmin's family have run out of food and are very hungry.

When we don't have enough to eat we can become weak and very sick. Sometimes Yasmin has no energy to play with her friends because she is so hungry. If she and her family don't get help, then they could become very very unwell indeed.

What can we do?

The good news is that Yasmin's local church is helping people in the area who don't have enough. The bad news is that so many people need help they can't possibly reach everyone. That's where Tearfund comes in, helping the local church in Chad, and other countries, to feed the people in their communities who are hungry, and helping them to be better farmers so that they can feed themselves even when the rains don't come.

But Tearfund needs our help to do this.

The Bible talks a lot about sharing, and particularly those of us who have plenty sharing with those who don't have enough. I wonder if we can think of ways in which we can share what we have this week so that Yasmin, and children like her, might get enough to eat. Could we share part of our pocket money, or give up a treat so that the money could go to help Tearfund's work? Maybe there are other ways we can think of to help.

And we can also pray.

We can pray for Yasmin and her family, we can pray for the country of Chad and for the rains to come, we can pray for the church there as it tries to help, and we can pray for ourselves that God would help us to share what we have with those in need.

Let's pray now...