

JMA 2009 Session Three - Civil War/Peace

This session will teach the children about the war in Sri Lanka and how it has affected peoples lives.

Resources: Big World map, felt tips, peace dove templates, glue, stickers, feathers, paper/material scraps, strip, hole punch.

Introduction:

Discussion - do a quick overview of what you've done in other weeks; see what children can remember about where their money is going and what it is going to do. Introduce the topic of war by talking about fighting with siblings. Do the children get on all the time? What sorts of things do they fight about? How does the fighting normally end? Talk about how we don't always agree with others and that sometimes countries don't agree with other countries or even groups inside countries don't even agree with each other. This can lead to wars starting. When a war is between two groups in the same country it is called a civil war. In Sri Lanka there was a civil war that had been going on for years and years and years but had just ended. Lots of peoples have been changed because of it. Today we are going to learn a little bit about that. Start by defining war and peace - these are abstract words and concepts that children need to understand.

(be very sensitive to the ages of the children in your group - this is a hard topic to cover and won't be suitable for every group)

Main Body of the Session

Game: Play Walking in the Jungle: The children sit in a large circle with a treasure in the middle. One child is nominated to go out of the circle, they are going to go for a walk in the jungle to get the treasure. In the circle one child is picked to be a Tiger. The Tiger has to catch the walker when they come into the jungle, but they can only move after the child has touched the treasure. The walker will come into the circle (not knowing who is the tiger) once they have picked up the treasure they must get out of the circle/jungle as quickly as possible. As they don't know who the tiger is they could run straight into them. If the tiger catches the walker before they get out of the circle the tiger wins. If the walker gets away with the treasure, the walker wins.

Explain that the Tiger in that game made us think about animals, but that the one of the groups in the Sri Lankan Civil war were called the Tamil Tigers.

Read part one of Tavisha's story - child affected by the civil war.

Read Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God. Talk about what this means.

Conclusion

Activity: make a peace dove. On one side decorate it, on the other side write a prayer for Sri Lanka. You could hang these from the ceiling.

Prayer: Father, thank you that we live in a country where we don't have to be scared all the time. Thank you that we are safe and our country is peaceful. God we prayer for countries in the world where there is war. We pray that you would bring peace. Father be with everyone who is fighting in a war now, help them to look for ways to solve problems without fighting. We pray as well for the families of soldiers who are worried, help them to know you are with them and they can depend on you. We pray for Sri Lanka too, that peace would hold and you would be in charge, that it would be your kingdom. In Jesus' name. Amen.