

Tavisha's Story Part 1

Not that long ago, a little girl called Tavisha was living with her family in a little village in northern Sri Lanka. Everyday Tavisha and her little brother would get up early before school and help her parents look after their plot of land where they grew rice, they would also feed the chickens. Off she would then walk about forty five minutes to school.

Unfortunately where she lived a war had broken out between the Sri Lankan government and the Tamil tigers. It was a vicious war where there seemed to be no sign of it ending.

Everyday as Tavisha walked to school she had to be very careful as she never knew where any of the men belonging to the war may be. It scared her but Tavisha was a Christian and everyday she would pray to God for the war to end.

One day the villagers heard that the Tamil tigers were approaching where she lived. Everyone was scared. Tavisha and her family knew they had to leave or face the prospect of been kidnapped by the army. They quickly gather their few belongings and ran for their lives.

Questions: *How do you think Tavisha felt?*

What do you think will happen next in the story?

What would you have done if you were Tavisha?

What things would you take if you had to leave quickly?

Where do you think the family will go to be safe?

Tavisha's Story Part 2

Questions: *What happened so far in Tavisha's story?*
What can you remember about Tavisha's country?

Recap story or reread part one (omitting the questions)

In the panic of everyone leaving, Tavisha got separated from her family. No matter who she asked and how hard she kept looking she couldn't find her family. How alone and scared Tavisha felt but she knew God would keep her safe.

Days and weeks passed and still no sign of her family. She was now staying in a temporary village, south of where she lived and safe from the fighting. She met a girl who was similar in age and they soon became friends. She introduced Tavisha to her family who also were Christian. They welcomed her and invited her to stay with them and share their food and water. She couldn't believe her luck; a strange family had showed such kindness to her and made her part of their family. In return she would help clean and look after their home.

Months passed by and eventually the war was over. For poor Tavisha though she still had not found her family, how she missed them. She prays every night that they are safe and they will be reunited soon.

Unfortunately Tavisha is not the only young person in Sri Lanka affected by the war in this way. Many families have been torn apart and are still not reunited today.

Be aware that this is a very sensitive story and may provoke strong feelings with your group. Read through it carefully and be prepared to let the children ask questions. If you can't answer them, just tell them that you don't know but will try to find out for them.