

Session 1: The country of South Africa (linked to the work of mission partner Dr Alan McIlhenny)

This session will be an introduction to South Africa - the children will learn a little bit about the country, the people and the culture. You can use this to introduce the overseas JMA projects too.

Resources: Big World map, objects from other countries, African masks copied on card, felt tips/crayons, string, scissors, prayercard for Alan McIlhenny

Introduction:

Discussion - thinking about other countries - Show the children a big map and tell them about some of the places that you have been to - put a little sticker/pin/blob of blu-tack on them. Ask the children where they have been and mark them too. Who has been the furthest? What countries has no one been to? Has anyone been to the same country as someone else?

The Country Game - getting children to think about different countries. Talk to the children about how all countries are different. Say that you have got some things from different countries and see if they can match the object to the country - you could have things like a toy kangaroo, a pizza box, chopsticks, a flag from another country, castanets, Russian doll, a beret etc.

Game - Explain that we are going to play a game from another country now. Play the Cat and Rat game from South Africa.

Main Body of the Session

South Africa - point out South Africa on the map and use the factsheet to tell the children a little about it. Talk about how last year we sent some of our JMA money to Kenya - this year it is going to South Africa to help lots of different projects there (see project sheets)

Its not fair! Say you are going to have a break for juice and biscuits - give out the juice so everyone gets a cup but miss out some children when you are giving out biscuits. Hopefully the children will complain but just keep sharing out the biscuits unfairly until each has either been given a biscuit or passed over. Ask the children what is wrong, they should tell you that's its not fair some people have no biscuits. Give biscuits to the children who were missed out and use this as a discussion started for what's fair/not fair. Point out that in the world some people have lots and other people have nothing and this isn't fair. Share with the children how in **Acts 2, v 42-47** the early church shared everything with everyone and that how in Micah 6:8 God tells us that he wants us to act justly - which means be fair so we have to help other people who don't have as much as us. Talk about how life in South Africa isn't fair for lots of people - especially lots of children and that we will be learning about that and how we can help over the next 3 sessions. Mission Partner **Dr Alan McIlhenny** coordinates an education programme to help children who have not been attending school, get up to a good level of basic literacy and numeracy so that they can join their local government school, again. His **Open Schools Programme** also offers counseling and life skills.

Conclusion

Activity: making African masks, learning Afrikaans / Zulu.

Prayer: God thank you that we are all your children, no matter what country we are from. Thank you for our homes, our families and our schools. Its easy for us to take everything we have for granted and we are sorry. Give us eyes to see when things aren't fair and help us to know how we can change them. Help Alan and his team (including Vivian and Richard) in their work. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

* **USE ALAN'S PRAYER CARD**

