

Session 3 – Displacement (linked to the Central Methodist Mission, Joburg project)

This session will teach the children about displacement so that they can understand why the work that is being done by the mission partners in South Africa is so important.

Resources: Big World map, paper, crayons/felt tips, suitcase, cones/hoops.

Introduction:

Discussion - Show the children your suitcase and tell them about the last time you used it. Tell them about where you went and what you brought with you. Ask them about what they bring with them when they go on holidays. Ask them to imagine that they are going to a desert island to live - what would they bring with them if they could only bring 5 things? What are the most important 5 things that they own and that they need?

Play the memory game I went on holiday and i brought: go around the circle and say one thing you'd take on holiday, the first person says one thing the second person says the first persons item and their own, so the last person must remember everyone else's as well as adding their own onto the end. *This will be very hard for smaller children - try a simplified Kim's Game instead (holiday objects on a tray - 2 mins to look - tray covered and 1 item removed - uncovered, what is missing?)*

Main Body of the Session

Play Budge: set up as many hoops/cones as you have in the room - ideally 2 less hoops than you have children. Each child stands at a hoop, apart from the person who is the catcher and one child who is the runner (although you can have more runners/catchers) The hoops are safe zones and you cannot be caught in them. The runner must avoid the catcher by jumping into a hoop and saying budge to the child at the hoop (who must move out and run to another hoop shouting budge to force out the occupant). The catcher can only catch people not in the hoop. When someone is caught they become the catcher.

Use the game as a way in to talk about Displacement and forced migration - the children may have had to move in that game when they didn't want to because someone came in and shouted budge to move them. How would they feel if someone came and forced them and their families to move out of their home or their country when they didn't want. Talk about how this happens in real life and talk about why some people have been forced to move - war, famine, a new leader who just wants power and doesn't care about the people. Talk about how they have to walk miles and miles and can't take things with them that they'd want to take. Talk about Johannesburg **Central Methodist Mission** and the Zimbabwean refugees. They have fled because they are in danger from soldiers or the police, cannot make enough money to live or there is no food. 70 of the children have no family with them. Jesus and his family were refugees when they fled to Egypt (**Matt. 2, v13-18**) and so would understand what life is like for those who are refugees today.

Conclusion

Activity: using Hama beads, get the children to make a South African flag. Think about how this country is home to people from lots of other countries too.

Prayer: God thank you for our homes and our families. Father we think for people who have no homes anymore because they were forced to move out. Thank you for the Methodist church in Joburg which has welcomed the Zimbabwean refugees. God we ask that these people would know that you love them and that you are with them just the same, no matter where they are. In Jesus' name amen.

