

Session 4 - Orphaned children / HIV/Aids (linked to Hammanskraal project)

This session will make the children aware of orphans due to HIV/Aids

Resources: Big World map, paper, crayons/felt tips, medicine, Cinderella story book, CD player, CD of the African Children's Choir.

Introduction:

Discussion - As this is the last session about South Africa and the JMA overseas projects, do a quick overview of what you've done in other sessions. Show the children the medicine bottle and talk about what happens when you get sick. Hopefully they'll get round to saying that you go to the doctor and get medicine that makes you better. Explain to the children that there are different medicines for different kinds of illness - but that for some illnesses they haven't found a medicine that works. Talk to the children about the fairytale of Cinderella and how at the start of the story both her mother and father have died and she is an orphan. Explain that in South Africa there are lots of children who are orphans, that their parents have died from an illness that the doctors couldn't give them medicine for, and some of these children are looked after in Hammanskraal.

(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 the African children's game cat and rat.

Listen: listen a song from the African children's choir, explain that most of the children in the choir are orphans but that they are looked after and cared for by the adults who look after the choir.

Project: Tell them more about the **Hammanskraal project**. Catherine Sepato is just a normal woman. She has a job and her husband is a police officer near Hammanskraal. In 2001 she decided to do something about the many children she saw who were abandoned or orphaned. Many of the parents had died of AIDS and some of the children are HIV positive. She got a piece of land and has now built several small rooms and a toilet. 25 children live their. Catherine, her sister and a handful of other volunteers are there for the children, feed them and make sure they get to school. Mission partner Alan McIlhenny's team also work with the children. As well as looking after 25 children, the volunteers feed another 130 every day. It is sometimes difficult to find the money to do this. It costs 15p / 20c to feed a child each day. Catherine wants to build some showers for the children who live at the home. At the moment there is only a tap sticking out of the ground. The volunteers show real love and concern for these children who are orphaned or had to leave the family home for their own safety. Many of them have been through very scary and sad experiences. **Matt. 8, v1-4** tells of how Jesus was willing to touch a leper. Usually people would not go near lepers. People sometimes feel the same about AIDS today. What would Jesus do if he met young people who had the disease AIDS? What would he want you to do?

Conclusion

Activity: design kente cloths. colour in traditional cloths using colours that represent Africa.

Prayer: Father, thank you for our families, for the people who take care of us and look after us. Thank you for Catherine and the other volunteers as they love and look after children who cannot live at home anymore. Father help the children there to learn that you love them very much and that you will never leave them or let them down. We pray for the new showers that are to be built, that they will make a real difference children's lives. Amen.

