

CHILDREN'S PRAYERS FOR PEACE IN SOUTH SUDAN

This is a simple-to-use resource for your children's work at church or in other groups. It is intended for children aged 3-10 but only parts of it will be suitable for younger children.

The first part is an introduction for you to read so that the children understand the situation in South Sudan in a way that is appropriate for them.

INTRODUCTION

(TO BE READ/PRESENTED)

In Africa there's a place called South Sudan. It's a new country that used to be part of a bigger country. The people hoped that starting a new country would help them avoid the troubles they've had in the past - but unfortunately the fighting has continued because of disagreements about how the country should be run.

Most of the people in the country would like to live in peace but they are surrounded by war. Nearly a million people have had to run away. A mother called Monica was separated from her husband by the war. She was pregnant, and she and her four children had to walk for five days to find somewhere safe. They travelled more than 100 miles with no food or water.

They eventually came to a church school that welcomed them in and gave them food, water and somewhere to live. *[Teachers – this school is supported by Tearfund. A prayer written by Father David, a*

member of the organisation that runs it, can be found here] Monica had her baby, a little boy, and she named him Don Bosco after the school that had given her help. Monica now has five children and they all miss their dad. But they don't know where he is. All they can do is pray that they will find him again. And we can pray for them too.



QUESTIONS FOR THE GROUP

What is the furthest you have ever walked?

What do you think it would feel like if you didn't have any food or water for several days?

How do you think Monica and her family felt when they found a safe place to stay?

How can we pray for Monica, her family, and other children at the school?

'LUGGAGE TAGS' CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

What you will need: a stack of basic luggage tags (you can buy these from stationers), or you could print off the template below, cut out the tags and thread string through them. You'll also need some pencils and crayons.

INSTRUCTIONS

After reading the story above, say to the children: 'We just learnt about Monica having to run away to somewhere safe. In South Sudan there are many children who can't go to school because it's not safe and they've had to run away.'

Some schools have had to close because it's not safe. These are luggage tags. We tie them to bags to show who the bags belong to. I'll give each of you one and you can write a prayer or do a drawing on it to remember families like Monica's.'

Give each child a tag and encourage them to write or draw.

At the end, encourage the children to take the tags home and attach them to their school bags as a reminder to pray for the children of South Sudan.



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Following Jesus where the need is greatest