

Kids Helping Kids



after a disaster

12-PART CURRICULUM ENCOURAGING
CHILDREN TO SERVE GOD & OTHERS

Loving Our Neighbor as Ourselves...

MARK 12:31

Disasters can strike anywhere but are most devastating in locations where there is a lack of resources and infrastructure to help people through them. And the devastation affects millions of children every year, and often carries on to the next generation of children. This year Kids Helping Kids addresses the need for responding to the world's disasters with tangible help and support.

Kids Helping Kids enables us to partner with children on their spiritual journey to:

- fulfill Christ's commandment to love God and our neighbor,
- foster a larger kingdom view,
- offer an opportunity to serve and obey God,
- provide a shared faith experience to build community,
- learn from the faith stories of other children around the world, and
- reflect and share their own stories of faith and what it means to respond thoughtfully and responsibly to those caught up in the world's disasters.

How can the children in your church help?

This booklet contains the stories of twelve children, each struggling to cope in the aftermath of a disaster. It is our hope that these voices—representing millions of children facing the challenge of rebuilding their lives—will help shape the children in your care as they become sensitive to other's needs, inspiring them to respond thoughtfully and generously.

Examples of ways your gift will make a difference:

- rebuilding lives
- rebuilding homes
- rebuilding families
- rebuilding communities.

Before taking an offering with the children each week, please read one of the stories, explore where it takes place in the world, engage in the cooperative game, reflect on how Christ responded to those in need, and pray for those who are suffering the consequences of a disaster. In this way, your children will connect with the bigger picture of God's kingdom and provide a tangible reflection of Christ's light in the world.

Gifts should be made out to Kids Helping Kids:
After a Disaster

MAIL TO: The Evangelical Covenant Church,
attn: Covenant World Relief, 8303 W. Higgins Road,
Chicago, IL 60631

Thank you for joining us this year in providing children hope for a brighter future. The *Kids Helping Kids: After a Disaster* curriculum is copyright 2017, The Evangelical Covenant Church. Permission granted to reproduce for local church use only.

To order the Kids Helping Kids resources contained in this packet go to: <http://www.CovChurch.org/kidshelpingkids>

Questions: Email CWR@covchurch.org or steve.burger@covchurch.org

Thanks to Jessica Springer for her work on the content.



Creative Ideas for Helping Others

Children involved in Kids Helping Kids have thought of some creative ways of raising money and praying for children around the world. Here are some ideas to share with the children in your ministry.

Neighborhood Fair

Children set up a neighborhood fair with a variety of games, shows, and food.

Odd Jobs

Children work in teams to clean up yards, garages, and basements.

Reading Marathon

Children find people to sponsor them for each book they read.

Recycling

Children and families gather recyclables and turn them in for money.

Lemonade and Brownie Stand

Children sell lemonade and brownies made with fair-trade chocolate.

Bible Reading

Children find people to sponsor them for each chapter or book of the Bible they read.

Challenge

Children challenge an adult class or small group(s) to match their offering.

Prayer Ideas

- Spend some time during each ministry gathering to pray for the children who have experienced a disaster.
- Encourage a child to pray for children whose stories they read during the worship service.
- Make prayer journals for children and families to use at home.
- Make a bracelet as a reminder to pray daily.

We hope these ideas will inspire the creativity of the children in your church. We would love to hear about how the children in your church use these or other ideas. Please send your stories to steve.burger@covchurch.org.

Thank you for partnering with us in ministering to children all over the world and especially for your ministry to the children in your church.

Caleb's Story

ECUADOR

My name is Caleb and I go to a Covenant church in Ecuador. In April 2016 an earthquake hit part of my country. My home was not hit by the earthquake, but many people were not that fortunate. The people who lived near the coast lost their homes and everything inside them. Many people were hurt and some even died.

People from our church teamed up with organizations to offer help. We cooked meals and made sure people had clothing, blankets, and medicine. We did what we could to help but there were lots of needs. Many people who lost their homes had to live in small tents, sometimes living together with many families.

The earthquake left a lot of damage. The people worked hard to try to clean up and rebuild their communities. The city didn't have much money to help. People were discouraged and tired. It was especially hard for the children, who didn't have opportunities to play. That's when our church had an idea.

We decided to do more than just help with their physical needs. We decided to create a carnival for the children so they would have a chance to have some fun. We dressed up as clowns, painted faces, made balloon animals, told jokes, and played games with the children. I was nervous at first because I didn't know if the kids would think I was funny. But they did! They



were so happy to have an opportunity to have fun and enjoy being kids again!

As we played with them, the kids had a chance to share their feelings about what had happened. Many of them hadn't talked about their sadness before, so this became an important way for them to learn how to say "goodbye" to the things and the people they had lost in the earthquake.

While life in Ecuador is still hard, we are slowly moving forward. We are helping these children and their families move from a place of sadness to hope.



Reflection

Find Ecuador on the globe. How do you think people felt after they lost everything in the earthquake? What would you be most sad to lose? Why? What are some of the ways Caleb and his church helped? The children had a chance to have fun at the carnival, but what else did they do? Why is it important to have someone to talk to? How can we help others by listening to them?

Cooperative Game

CONTAGIOUS LAUGHTER: Have a child lie on his or her back. Have a second child place their head on the other child's belly. Continue until every child is resting his or her head on another child's belly. Choose one person to start the game by shouting, "Ha!" The next person shouts, "Ha, ha," and the following child adds another "ha" as they work around the group. Eventually the entire group will burst into laughter.

ASK: How did it feel to play this silly game and laugh? How does laughter help us when we are feeling lonely, sad, or bad? Do you think what Caleb did, dressing up as a clown, was just as important as providing food for the children? Why or why not?

Response

Pass out paper and art materials and encourage everyone to make a card for someone who is lonely or feeling sad. Explain that Caleb and his church wanted to help the children affected by the earthquake feel better. Sometimes we can help others by what we give but other times it can be through spreading joy or laughter. We know people that are sad, lonely, or have been in hard situations, and we can make them feel better by sharing words of God's love and encouragement to them. As we reflect on how Caleb helped others in Ecuador, let's share our cards with someone who might need their day brightened up.

PRAYER FOCUS: Let's pray for the people in Ecuador who have lost their homes and loved ones. Let's pray for the families to be able to re-build and recover from this earthquake. Let's pray for Caleb and his church as they help the people. Let's thank God for laughter and fun. And, finally, let's pray for ways and resources to help the families of Ecuador.

Remind the children that they too can help people in Ecuador. Remind them that their giving helps organizations provide shelter, food, clothing, medicine, and school supplies to the people who have lost everything in the earthquake.

MATERIALS: globe, construction paper, art supplies (markers, crayons, stickers)

Raamaatu's Story

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

My name is Raamaatu and I am from the Central African Republic. There are many different tribes of people who live in my country. I belong to the Fulani tribe. For the past few years there has been a lot of fighting between the different tribes, often because of differences in religion. We are Muslim but there are some tribes that are not. Many Muslims, including our family, were forced to leave their homes and go to Cameroon because the fighting had become too dangerous.

We now live in a small mud brick hut. There are five of us living together in one room—my parents, my two younger siblings, and me. It may be small but we are thankful to be safe. While my family was able to find help, many people have not been able to leave because they don't have enough money or opportunities to cross the border to a safer place.

During this time, we have been grateful to get to know Roy and Aleta Danforth. They are Covenant missionaries who have become our friends. They visit often and have helped us as much as they can. During one of their visits, they noticed I was not able to stand up. My knees had become very swollen and very painful. There are not any doctors where we now live so I was not able to get help. I was quickly losing my ability to stand or walk. Roy and Aleta found a way for me to get help at the mission hospital back in Central African Republic. This could have been a dangerous



and risky thing to do, but they were able to get permission for me to return to my country.

My grandmother took me to the hospital and I spent almost six weeks there. It was a long time to be away from my family and I missed them. I was thankful my grandmother was there by my side during this stay. I was also thankful for doctors and nurses that took care of me. After my stay in the hospital I had to take medicine for eight more months before I was finally healed. If I had not had gotten treatment I could have lost my ability to use my legs forever. Now I can run, walk, and play.



Reflection

Find Central African Republic on the globe. How do you think Raamaatu felt when she had to leave her home? What makes a home? How do you think she felt when she couldn't stand and there weren't any doctors nearby to help her? How do you feel when you are sick? What makes you feel better?



Cooperative Game

CUP CHALLENGE: Prior to playing, cut 4-6 pieces of string that are 2-3 feet long. Tie each piece to one rubber band as evenly spaced as possible. (It should look like a sunshine with rays going out in all directions.) Divide the

children into groups of 4 to 6 so that each child holds one piece of the string on their rubber band string device. Place cups upside down in a pile in front of each group. Instruct groups to work together to pull and stretch the rubber band so that it is wide enough to fit over the top of one cup. Then as they release pressure, the rubber band will hug the cup tightly.

Once the rubber band is secure around the cup, the group lifts the cup by the strings (no hands allowed) and moves it across the room. Continue until all the cups are moved.

ASK: Could you have picked up these cups individually using the string and rubber bands? Why or why not? How did you have to rely on one another to complete this task? How is this similar to what happened in Raamaatu's story? When we face difficult situations, who can we count on for help?

Response

Give a Band-aid to each child and have them wrap it around their finger. Encourage them to think about a time when someone helped them. Reflect on the importance of caring and helping others. Reflect on how God cares for each of us as well.

PRAYER FOCUS: Let's pray for the people in Central African Republic to be at peace. Let's pray for those who have been forced out of their homes, as well as for those who have not been able to leave. Let's pray that families can receive the help and care they need. And, finally, let's pray for ways and resources to help the families of Central African Republic.

Remind the children that they too can help people in Central African Republic. Remind them that their giving helps organizations provide support for people who live in areas where there is fighting.

MATERIALS: globe, plastic cups (2-3 per groups of 4-6), rubber bands (1 per every 4-6), string or yarn, scissors, Band-aids (one per person)



Deng's Story

ETHIOPIA

My name is Deng and I live in Ethiopia near the border of South Sudan. I have an older sister named Nyaluak and a younger brother whose name is Bol Pathot. We used to live in South Sudan, but there is a war going on there and we had to leave to escape the fighting. We had to walk many miles. It was a long and dangerous trip. We were not alone, however. There were many other people fleeing the war, looking for a place to live in peace.

Even though we are now in Ethiopia, we are still not always safe. There is a tribe called the Murlee who are also struggling for survival. In the spring, the Murlee men came into my village. During this raid, they tried to take our cattle. Many of our family members died during this raid trying to protect us, including my mother and grandmother. During the raid my father had been chasing the cattle out of our farm so they would not be taken. Fortunately, he was not killed, but the cattle and sheep were taken. Many other families also lost loved ones as well as their cattle and sheep.

The Evangelical Covenant Church has helped us during this time of hardship, they have purchased cattle and sheep for families to replace the ones that



have been stolen. Covenant World Relief has also provided aid for some of the children whose parents were killed. Through this program we can have food, clothing, and school supplies.

While life is still hard, I know that I am not alone. There are others around the world who are praying and doing things to help us.



Reflection

Find Ethiopia and South Sudan on the globe. What are you concerned about after hearing Deng's story? In what ways has Deng's family not given up after this experience?

Cooperative Game

OBSTACLE COURSE: Create an obstacle course using construction paper stepping stones, crawling under a table, running around chairs etc. Be sensitive to the abilities of your children. Each child goes through the obstacle course one at a time and the rest of the children are encourage to cheer and encourage each child as they go through the course as enthusiastically as they can. You can provide some rhythm instruments for this.

ASK: How did you feel going through the obstacle course? How did you feel encouraging others? How can we be an encouragement to children like Deng?

Response

Encourage children to share times when they were discouraged or saw others who were discouraged or struggling. Talk about ways we could respond to those we see struggling.

PRAYER FOCUS: Let's pray for the people in Ethiopia and South Sudan to be at peace. Let's pray for the children and families who have lost loved ones because of this attack. Let's pray that these children and families are able move on and rebuild their lives. And, finally, let's pray for ways and resources to help the people in Ethiopia and South Sudan.

Remind the children that they too can help in Ethiopia. Remind them that their giving helps families have animals, food, shelter, clothing, and school supplies.

MATERIALS: *globe, construction paper, items for obstacle course, rhythm instruments*

Sabatina's Story

HAITI

My name is Sabatina and I live in Haiti. Up until last fall, my life was fairly normal—I lived in a nice house with my mom, dad, and sister. I went to school, and I played with my friends. Everything changed when Hurricane Matthew hit our country in October 2016. It was one of the largest hurricanes in history. It lasted thirteen days and traveled through eight different countries. Haiti is on an island, and it experienced the worst destruction.

Before the hurricane hit, we knew it was going to be big, powerful, and destructive. People were told to leave their homes and find safe shelters to protect them. But there were not enough places for people to go. Around 546 people in Haiti died in this hurricane because they were not able to leave their homes. My family found protection, but our home and everything inside was destroyed. My little sister was sad because even her favorite book was destroyed.

After Hurricane Matthew hit, and the powerful winds were over, it continued to rain hard. In some places, more than two feet of rain come down in a very short time! Houses and fields were flooded. My father raised livestock and all of the animals were killed in the flood. This was especially hard because not only had we lost our home but now my dad lost his work and his ability to provide an income for our family.



We now live with my grandmother. We are grateful to be able to lean on one another, and we are thankful to be alive and that we have been taken care of through this experience. Our country has seen a lot of destruction. It will take a long time for us to rebuild our homes and livelihoods. It will also cost a lot of money to make this happen. While Haiti is a poor country, and doesn't have much money to help us rebuild, we won't give up. We will continue to work together, helping one another so that we can rebuild our homes and farms.



Reflection

Find Haiti on the globe. What do you think has helped Sabatina and her family not give up? How can we have hope when things feel beyond our control?

Cooperative Game

CARD PICK-UP: Tell the children they will be playing a card game. Take 3-5 different decks of cards, mix them together and then throw them up in the air. Watch as they fall on the floor. Encourage children to spread them all over the floor. Then explain that the game is called 52 (or however many cards you have) card pick-up, and invite them to pick up all these cards and sort them into their specific decks.

ASK: How did you feel when you found out the game was not a game but a cleaning-up project? Did it feel overwhelming at first when you saw this big mess and knew you had to pick them up and sort them? What things did you do as a group to make this project easier? How is this similar to what happened in Haiti?

Response

Pass out a thin dowel or stick to each child and have them break it into two pieces. Encourage them to think about the destroyed homes in Haiti and the families there. Have everyone take their broken pieces and tie them together to make a large cross. As they do this reflect on what happened in Haiti and challenge them to think about how God can restore and rebuild and change a bad situation.

PRAYER FOCUS: Let's pray for the people in Haiti as they rebuild their homes and livelihood. Let's pray for the people who have lost loved ones due to the hurricane. And, finally, let's pray for ways and resources to help the families of Haiti.

Remind the children that they too can help people in Haiti. Remind them that their giving helps people by providing supplies to rebuild their homes and towns, and animals to replenish their livestock.

MATERIALS: globe, 3-5 decks of cards (each deck should have a different design or color on the back), thin sticks or dowels (1 per child), yarn or string, scissors

Nandu's Story

MORANG, NEPAL

My name is Nandu and I live in Nepal with my wife and our baby daughter. I have a job as a tractor driver, which means I am not always home because I am traveling to different job sites. We used to live in village called Morang where we owned a small house. I was thankful that I could provide for my family.

During the summer months, there is a season called monsoon, when there is a lot of rain. One summer day when I was working, it began to rain harder than usual. We lived near a river and I was concerned that the river would flood. I went home and hoped for the best. However, that night my wife and I woke up around 3 a.m. to a strange smell. Muddy water had begun to seep into our house. We realized quickly that our house was flooding and we needed to leave immediately.

We didn't have time to pack up many things to take with us. After we had left our house and were safe, we watched as the muddy water completely covered our house. It happened so quickly. In this instant, we lost our house and everything inside. We are thankful for how God protected us, but were scared as we wondered where we could go because we were now homeless.

At first we lived in a tent. Eventually we moved to a small cottage. While this was a big improvement from



the tent, we were concerned because we were not prepared for the coming winter months. We did not have warm clothes or blankets to protect us from the cold. Pastor Prabashe and Covenant World Relief's partner, Nepal Christian Relief Services, have helped us during this difficult time. They provided jackets and quilts to keep us warm.

We have been so thankful for how God has provided to meet all our needs, even down to the simplest things such as a coat and blankets. These items have meant the world to us and have provided us hope as we begin to move forward from this terrible flood.



Reflection

Find Nepal on the globe. Share a story about a time when you have been outside and it has been cold. What did you do when you were cold? How would you feel if you didn't have warm clothing or heat in your home? How can being cold be a dangerous thing?

Cooperative Game

IN AN INSTANT: Have everyone work together to build a large house out of sugar cubes on a large baking tray. Encourage them to make it tall and to be creative in their design. When they are done, ask them to describe in detail the features of the house. Praise them and then say something like, "In an instant Nandu's house was destroyed by the flood waters. Let's see what that looks and feels like." Have everyone step back, and then pour hot water all over the sugar cube house. Watch as it dissolves and melt.

ASK: How did it feel watching your sugar cube house disappear before your eyes? How do you think Nandu and his wife felt when they saw their home disappear? What do you think motivated or inspired him to continue to move forward after this flood?

Response

Have kids imagine that they are in a cold place. Encourage them to close their eyes and imagine what each of their senses experiences in this cold place. Now instruct them to rub their hands together quickly for at least ten seconds. Have them reflect on the feeling of warmth coming from their hands. Encourage them to think about Nandu and how he must have felt when his family was given a jacket and blanket. Reflect on how these warm items not only warmed their bodies but also "warmed" his heart. Think of ways in which we can "warm" someone's heart.

PRAYER FOCUS: Let's pray for Nandu and his family, asking God to continue to provide and care for them. Let's pray for the people in Nepal as they rebuild their homes and livelihood after the flood. Let's pray for the people to have warm clothes and adequate protection during the cold winter months. And, finally, let's pray for ways and resources to help the families of Nepal.

Remind the children that they too can help people in Nepal. Remind them that their giving helps provide people with supplies to rebuild their homes, have adequate clothing, and other things necessary to survive.

MATERIALS: *globe, sugar cubes (1-2 boxes depending on size of group), baking pan with a lip, hot water*

Ava's Story

FLINT, MICHIGAN

My name is Ava and I live in Flint, Michigan. My dad is the pastor of Joy Tabernacle Church. In 2015, our city was placed on a state of emergency because our water was unsafe to drink. For many years, the people in Flint had been drinking the water and didn't realize it was unsafe. Many people became sick. I had to go to the hospital many times for breathing problems. I was once there for eight days hooked up to various machines.

My brother was born six weeks early, which can be dangerous for babies. We think one of the reasons he was born so early was because my mom had been drinking the water before we knew it was bad for us. My brother is now growing up big and strong and we are thankful that the doctors have taken care of him. But just like me, he also has had many visits to the hospital for breathing problems.

Now that we know the water is bad, we use bottled water for everything. We use it to cook, to brush our teeth, and even to take a bath! It can be hard to have to change how you do everything. We have to be aware of how and where we will get water or even if we will have enough clean water to drink or wash ourselves.

We have been helping other people in our community. My dad and members of our church hold big events



for our neighbors, where they can have their water tested, and have their blood tested to see if they are healthy. We also give away food and clean water to people who don't have any. Our goal is to reach out and help others, showing them the love of Jesus.



Reflection

Find Flint, Michigan, on the globe. Now find where you live. Sometimes we think that disasters only happen in other countries but this story reminds us that any place can be impacted by a disaster. Ava's story reminds us that we have a choice in how we respond to a bad situation. How does Ava and her family respond to the water crisis?

Cooperative Game

SPOON/BALL WALK: Give each child a spoon and have them place a ball on it. Then tell them to walk across the room holding on to the handle of the spoon but without touching the ball. If the ball drops they need to pick it up and try again. When everyone has finished, tell them they have to do it again, but this time the rules have changed. They have to place the spoon handle on the top their head so that the spoon and ball hang out over their forehead. They may use one hand to hold the handle of the spoon to their head, but they can't use their other hand to steady the ball.

ASK: Which way was easier to carry the ball? Why? When the instructions changed, you had to learn to do things differently. Ava and her family had to change

how they use water. What things did they have to learn to do differently to keep their family safe? Is it easy to do things in a different way? Why or why not? How important it is to have a good attitude when we have to change the way we do things?

Response

Pass out cups of water and invite everyone to take a drink, saying, "We are thankful that our water is safe to drink. As you drink this water, think about Ava and her family. Think about the people in Flint, Michigan." Ask everyone to share their thoughts.

PRAYER FOCUS: Let's pray for Ava's family and all the people in Flint. Let's pray that they are able get the clean water they need to drink, cook, and use for everyday things such as showers and brushing their teeth. Let's pray that their bodies can be healed from the sicknesses from the bad water. And, finally, let's pray for ways and resources to help the people of Flint.

Remind the children that they can help the people in Flint. Remind them that their giving helps organizations provide clean water, food, and medicine to the people there.

MATERIALS: globe, spoons (one per child), ping pong balls (one per child), cups or bottles of water (one per child)

Maliwan's Story

THAILAND

My name is Maliwan and I was born in a small village in the mountains in Thailand. My family is very poor and often we do not have enough to eat. We work hard to grow crops but this is difficult work because we do not have fields. We must cut down trees and burn bushes to clear areas on the side of the mountains to plant seeds. But sometimes after we have planted seeds, rain takes away the sides of the mountains and washes away our soil and crops.

When I was six years old my mother died in a tractor accident while farming on the mountains. Eventually my father remarried but his new wife did not treat my siblings and me very well. My older sister and I were lonely and knew this was not the way we wanted to live our life so we decided to make changes.

After I finished fourth grade, my older sister and I hiked to a town twelve miles away. There we learned about Covenant World Relief's partner, the Center for Sustainable Development, where we would be able to live while going to school and learning skills. We applied and were so excited when we were accepted into this school.

The past few years have been such an amazing experience. As hard and as difficult as my life used to be now I have hope and opportunities. I have learned so much, including all about God's love for us. Growing up we believed in different spirits and



the focus was on giving to these spirits to make them happy. Now I am discovering it isn't about what we give but about how God has given us the greatest gift of all through Jesus.

When I was a young child I was constantly worried about not having enough. The people here at the center have cared for me, and I have learned how to give and share with others. This has changed my outlook in life. It is a joy for me to share and bless others, especially the younger children at the center. The people here have become my new family. I love them and am so thankful for how they have invested and cared for me. It has changed my life forever.



Reflection

Find Thailand on the globe. What is a goal or something you want to achieve in your life? What are some of the goals that Maliwan made in her life? Who helped her achieve these goals? How has her experience changed her?

Cooperative Game

OVERFLOWING BLESSINGS: Create two teams. Place 10 to 20 balloons in the middle of the room. Instruct the teams that their goal is to bless the other side with as many balloons as possible during a set amount of time. Children may pick up balloons from the middle or from their own side of the room and run them to the other team's side as often as possible. When the time is over, call everyone together to debrief.

ASK: As you were focusing on blessing the other team with balloons, what happened to your side? Was it possible to get all the balloons to the other side of the room? How is this concept of sharing and blessing similar to what we see in Maliwan's story? Is sharing an easy thing to do? Why or why not? Often when we give and bless others, we receive a blessing back in return. Have you had a time when you gave to someone else but in the end you felt like you were blessed by that person?

Response

Pass out a lemon wedge to each child and encourage them to taste the sourness of the lemon. Reflect on the bad moments that had happened Maliwan's life. Think about how these situations could have made her feel discouraged, sour, or even want to give up.

Pass out small cups of lemonade to each child and encourage them to sip and think about how Maliwan's life became sweet. Think about the choices she made and how the people at the center helped her discover God's love. Think about how her story reminds us to learn from the sour and focus in on ways to experience the sweetness of life and how we can share that with others and make their lives sweeter.

PRAYER FOCUS: Let's pray for Maliwan and her sister and all the children at the Center for Sustainable Development. Let's pray that they will learn about God's love for them. Let's pray the center will continue to help children that need care. And, finally, let's pray for ways and resources to bring help to children like Maliwan in Thailand.

Remind the group that they too can help the children at the Center for Sustainable Development. Remind them that their giving helps children go to school and provides them with the supplies to learn skills and trades necessary to survive once they reach adulthood.

MATERIALS: globe, 10-20 inflated balloons, lemon wedges (one per child), small cups of lemonade (one per child)

Tulmaya's Story

TIPLING, NEPAL

My name is Tulmaya and I live in Nepal with my five children. Our village is very poor and remote, but we all help each other and we know we can count on our neighbors. My husband worked in the local iron factory. It was a good job that provided for our family, but it was a very difficult one.

A few years ago, my husband was killed when an earthquake hit our village. Many houses were destroyed, including my own. Organizations quickly responded to help the people in our village. We received clothing and other items necessary for survival. I was so thankful for this help but I also worried how I could rebuild a life for my family after this disaster without my husband. I was not worried for my two oldest children. My son was married and settled with his new family. My daughter had an opportunity to go to a school where she could live and be taken care of. But my three youngest children were dependent on me to provide for them. I needed to find them a safe place to live and create an opportunity for them to receive an education.

Unlike my husband, I was not able to do a manual labor job working in the iron factory. We also didn't own any land so I was not to earn money for my family through farming. I felt discouraged because there seemed to be



little opportunities for me to contribute. While there were neighbors who were willing to lend me money, I didn't want to continuously lean on them. I wanted to provide for my children.

An organization called Shanti Nepal, a partner of Covenant World Relief, gave me enough money so that I could purchase temporary shelter for my family. I am so thankful for their help because now I can focus on raising and educating my children. I no longer worry about where we will live but can spend my time rebuilding our lives.

Reflection

Find Nepal on the globe. What is your favorite subject at school? How would you feel if you were not given the resources to get an education or go to school? Why is getting an education important for children?



Cooperative Game

PASS THE BALL: Have the children lie on their backs on the ground against a wall. Have them place their legs

up the side of the wall so that they are making a right angle with their bodies. Place a large ball on the feet of the first child, and have them slowly work on passing the ball down the line only using their feet. If the ball drops, they need to pick up the ball and begin to repass the ball from the beginning of the line.

ASK: How was this game challenging? What did you learn that made this challenge easier? Could you move the ball quickly down the line without it dropping? Sometimes progress forward moves slowly but that doesn't mean progress isn't happening. Although there is much to be done to make sure Tulmaya's children get the education they need, every action she is doing is helping them move forward. What things is she doing to help her children so that they can have a better life? What things do you think still need to happen so that Tulmaya can continue to rebuild her family and provide for her children?

Response

Write the word "hope" on a blackboard or dry erase board. Pass out one Post-it note and pencil or marker to each child, and ask them to write or draw a picture of one way in which Tulmaya has experienced hope to move forward. Put the finished notes on the board surrounding the word hope.

PRAYER FOCUS: Let's continue to pray for Tulmaya and her family. Let's pray that she will continue to receive help to raise and support her family. Let's pray for her children and all the children in her village that they can receive the education necessary to help them as they grow up. And, finally, let's pray for ways and resources to help the families in Nepal.

Remind the children that they too can help the families in Nepal. Remind them that their giving helps provide shelter, food, education, and financial independence.

MATERIALS: globe, large ball, blackboard or dry erase board, chalk or dry erase markers, Post-it notes (one per child), writing utensils (one per child)

Rizwan's Story

INDIA

My name is Rizwan and I live in a very small village in India that is far from any other towns. I live with my parents and three younger brothers and sisters. Recently there have been fights between protestors and the Indian army. The fighting became so bad that our village was placed on a curfew, which means that we were not allowed to leave our house for any reason. Even my father couldn't leave to go to his job.

We were trapped in our house, and all that we had to live on was the food that we already had in the house. We quickly realized we were not going to have enough food to survive so we began to ration our portions. Some days we would share very small amounts of food. It wasn't enough to fill us up but it gave us some nourishment. Some days we didn't eat at all. It didn't feel very good when we had to miss meals. This was a scary time because we didn't know how long we were going to have to stay in our house and we didn't know if we would have enough food to survive.

Sometimes people were able to sneak food to us. We were very grateful for this help when it came. After two months of living with this uncertainty and with barely any food left in our house, my father heard about a team of people from the Hindustani Covenant Church



who were allowed to distribute food to families. On an assigned day, my father would be able to collect a bag full of food, such as rice, spices, oil, and sugar. We divided it into daily portions so that we could get our basic nutrition each day. This food lasted an entire month!

After four months of living under the curfew, we heard that the fighting was beginning to decrease. We were finally allowed to leave our house and return to normal daily living. My father was able to return to his job and provide the financial income needed to support our family.



Reflection

Find India on the globe. Have you ever been really hungry? How did you feel? Did you have to wait a long time before you were able to eat? How do you think Rizwan and his family felt not knowing when they might be able to eat again? Even when they were hungry, do you think they were grateful for the food they had? Why or why not?

Cooperative Game

SHRINKING SQUARE: Place a large piece of paper on the ground. Explain that everyone has to put one foot inside the paper square. Once they have completed this task fold the paper in half. Now tell them they have to complete same challenge using only half the size of the original paper. Once they have completed this task, fold the paper in half again. Continue to repeat the challenge with the same requirements, each time making the paper smaller and smaller. Encourage them to work together to fit all their feet in the small space.

ASK: What challenges did you face each time the paper became smaller? How did you work together to fit your feet on this paper even though it was smaller? How is this similar to Rizwan's experience with the small rations of food? How do you think they were able to lean on one another and encourage each other even when they felt hungry?

Response

Take a cup of cooked rice and divide it evenly between each of the children. Examine how much rice is on each child's plate. Is this a lot of food? Encourage children to eat their portion slowly. Reflect on what it might feel like if this was all the food you could eat in a day.

PRAYER FOCUS: Let's pray for Rizwan and his family. Let's thank God for providing for them during the four months of the curfew. Let's pray that fighting stops. And, finally, let's pray for ways and resources to bring help to these families in India.

Remind the children that they can help people in India who are hungry. Remind them that their giving helps people receive food.

MATERIALS: globe, large piece of paper (at least 3' x 3'), a cup of cooked rice, small plates and spoons (one per child)

Ko Win's Story

MYANMAR

My name is Ko Win and I live in Myanmar with my wife and children. I am a farmer—I grow various crops and raise livestock. I have worked hard my entire life, often putting in long hours. It is a tough job but it has helped me take care of my family.

A year ago our town was hit by a cyclone, which is what we call a hurricane in our part of the world. It was so strong that the dam protecting our village from flooding burst open. We knew immediately that we needed to leave and find a safe protected place. Because the flood waters were rising quickly we did not have enough time to pack up our belongings so we just left them. On the way out of the village, we went into the fields and gathered all the cows that we could find and fled for safety.

When the storm was over we returned home to find out how bad the damage had been. We were thankful to find that our house was still standing, but many of our belongings had been ruined by the flood.

When we went out to the fields the situation was a little more discouraging. The crops that had been growing were ruined. The fields were damaged by the flood waters, and it would take time before they could be ready to plant new crops, or before my animals could graze on them.



Photo Courtesy of World Relief © Esther Havens.

I knew that my situation was not hopeless, however. Organizations provided us with rice, oil, and other food supplies to sustain us for the next few months while we got our land ready to farm. It would take a lot of work to recover the fields but I was used to hard work. If I had a good attitude and continued to work through this situation, I was hopeful that next season we could have a bountiful harvest.



Reflection

Find Myanmar on the globe. Think about Ko Win's story and how water is necessary for farming. Think about how water can also be dangerous, and how it can damage not only houses, but farmland. What do you think Ko Win has to do to rebuild his farmland?

Cooperative Game

PLANK RELAY: Place pieces of construction paper across the entire room in a line. There should be at least 3 pieces for every child. Place a person on every third square so they are evenly spaced out across the construction paper line. Put 5 bean bags (or rolled-up socks) at one end of the room. Have the first person in the line get in a plank or push-up position in front of their construction paper square. This child must stay in this position as they pick up all five bags (one at a time) and move them to the next construction paper square. Then they must walk over to this square while still in a plank or push-up position. This child continues to move bags down the row until they trade off with the next child. This child then jumps into the plank position and continues to pick up bean bags and rotate them across the construction paper squares. Continue to pass bags down the room until all kids have participated in this relay and all the bags have made it across the room.

ASK: Was it easy or hard to move the beanbags while being in a plank position? How did it feel once your group completed this challenge? Do you think this

game was more rewarding because it took hard work to complete? How do you think Ko Win's situation is similar to the hard work needed to get the bean bags to the other side? How does Ko Win's attitude for hard work inspire you as you look at projects that seem difficult or overwhelming?

Response

Soak dry beans overnight in water. Give one bean to each child. Encourage them to think about how a plant grows and brings new life and hope. Give each child a damp paper towel and a sandwich zipper bag and have them put the paper towel in the bag and then place their bean on top. Seal the bags shut. Encourage them to take their bean home and watch as it begins to sprout. Encourage them to pray for Ko Win each time they look at their bean.

PRAYER FOCUS: Let's pray that Ko Win and other villagers will have the energy and positive attitude to continue to rebuild their fields. Let's thank God for protecting Ko Win's family. Let's pray for the villagers who have lost homes and farmlands that they may be able to find the resources to begin again. Let's pray that the fields will be able to grow crops again. And, finally, let's pray for ways and resources to help people in Myanmar rebuild and prevent flooding in the future.

Remind the children that they too can help people in Myanmar. Remind them that their giving helps people receive financial aid, food, and supplies so that they can rebuild their homes and their farmlands.

MATERIALS: globe, construction paper (at least 3 sheets per child), 5 bean bags or rolled-up socks, dry beans that you have soaked overnight in water, sandwich zipper bags, damp paper towels

Alwin's Story

IRAQ

My name is Alwin and I am fourteen years old. I live in Iraq with my parents and four younger brothers and sisters. Our country has been going through a civil war. There have been different armies within our country fighting for control and power. This past year the fighting came into our village. My parents were killed and one of my brothers was wounded. It was very scary and sad.

My grandparents helped us escape to safety. We had to climb through the Sinjar Mountains, which was a long and hard climb, and we didn't have much food and water. After ten days we finally made it to a safe place. There were open fields where families came together to live. I set up a tent for myself and my brothers and sisters. My grandparents had a tent next to us.

Since then, my grandparents have become very weak, so I now take care of them and my siblings. I have had to grow up a lot quicker than most kids, but I am thankful that we are alive and together. Although we are in a safe area, the tent often floods when it rains, and it doesn't protect us from the cold.

I am grateful for organizations such as Covenant World Relief that have provided us with warm clothes and blankets. These gifts mean a lot to me, but I still



Photo Courtesy of World Relief © Esther Havens.

often feel overwhelmed trying to do everything to take care of my grandparents and siblings. I am thankful for the support we have received as it encourages me during this difficult time. I am also thankful for how Covenant World Relief has created kid friendly spaces and activities for us. This helps remind my siblings and me that it is okay to take time to just be a kid. It is important to laugh, play, and share our feelings as we talk about the hard times we have experienced in our lives.



Reflection

Find Iraq on the globe. Share a story about a time when you had to be responsible for something. What are some of the responsibilities parents have? What are some of the responsibilities kids should have? In what ways do you think Alwin has had to shift into a responsible role caring for her siblings and grandparents?

Cooperative Game

BACK TO BACK: Have everyone find a partner, and sit on the ground, back to back with their partner. Have them link their arms at the elbows, and tell them to lean on their partner while trying to stand up from this sitting position. They should try to do this activity without using their hands.

ASK: Could you have done this challenge without your partner? How did your partner help you stand up? Although Alwin is taking care of her siblings and grandparents, how do you think they are helping her? How are organizations helping Alwin? How important is it for family to lean and support one another? How can we lean on God for support in good and hard situations?

Response

Form a circle. Give a ball of yarn to one person and have them hold on to the end of the yarn. Ask them to say a word or phrase to describe Alwin. When they are done, have them toss the yarn, while still holding on to the end, to another person in the circle. That child does the same thing, holding on to the line of yarn when they toss it to someone else. By the time everyone has participated there should be a large web of yarn in the middle of the circle.

Say something like, "While Alwin may have to be facing more difficulties than many of us will ever experience, look at all the ways God has blessed her by giving her the strength, energy, and love to care for her family. Just as a web is stronger than a piece of yarn, God is equipping Alwin to lead and care for her family."

PRAYER FOCUS: Let's pray for Alwin and her family. Let's pray that the fighting in Iraq will end. Let's pray for those children and families that have lost loved ones. Let's pray that the children will continue to have opportunities to play. And, finally, let's pray for ways and resources to help children and families move forward into a safer and more protected environment.

Remind the children that they can help the families in Iraq. Remind them that their giving helps children and families receive financial aid, food, education, and other necessary supplies so that they can grow up feeling safe and protected.

MATERIALS: globe, ball of yarn

Marwa's Story

SYRIA

My name is Marwa and I live in Syria. During my teenage years, I struggled with being lonely, angry, and sad. When I was seventeen, I decided to follow Jesus. From this moment, my life changed. I found hope and joy, even in hard and difficult situations.

Our country is going through a very difficult civil war. There is constant fighting between different religious groups. It is not a very safe place to live. Many families have lost loved ones and many homes and buildings have been destroyed, including the university where my brother was going to school. There is a lot of uncertainty in our country about the future. Many people have decided to leave; they have become refugees living in a different country in order to be safe.

Many of my friends and people in my community have left. It has been hard seeing so many people leave our country. I have felt God calling me to stay in Syria to serve and reach out to the people here. I am doing anything and everything to help others know that God is working through this disaster. I serve in various ministries at our church. I help with communication by translating things into different languages and I volunteer with organizations that help hurting people who have lost homes and lost ones. I have seen a lot of pain and suffering.



Due to the conflict in Syria, Marwa does not feel comfortable sharing her photo. Covenant World Relief is working in Syria with children, some of whom are pictured above.

It can be hard seeing all the hurt and not knowing what the future of our country will be. But I want people to know that God can restore all things. God is using me to help teach and spread the good news. God is using my story to help change and encourage other people to know Jesus, and I am grateful that I can do this.



Reflection

Find Syria on the globe. Have you heard about the war in Syria in the news? What do you think it is like for Marwa to stay in Syria? Have you ever told anyone about Jesus? If so, how did it feel to share? How do you share the love of Jesus to others in your community?

Cooperative Game

HUMAN PRETZEL: Form a circle and have everyone reach their hands into the circle and grab the hands of two different children, someone other than the person standing next to them. They should have made a big tangled twisted mess as they hold hands with one another. Encourage them to work together to untwist themselves into one large circle without letting go of the hands they are holding.

ASK: Did you feel like it was going to be possible to untangle? How did you work together to untwist and untangle? Things in Syria are very twisted and difficult. It would have been easy for Marwa to give up and leave like so many other people. Why do you think she stays in a dangerous place? How do you think Marwa is partnering with God to restore the lives of the people in Syria?

Response

Turn off the lights and ask everyone to close their eyes and think about the brokenness and destruction that is happening in Syria. Have them think about how this is similar to darkness. Pass out battery-operated candles to each child, or place a few in the middle of the room. Reflect on how the light overpowers the darkness of the room. Read John 8:12. Think about how Marwa is being a light in Syria.

PRAYER FOCUS: Let's pray for Syria, and that the fighting there will end. Let's pray for the people who left, looking for safety. Let's pray for the people who remain in Syria. Let's pray for Marwa, that God will protect and strengthen her so she can continue to be a light and spread the love of Jesus to the people around her.

Remind the children that they can help Syrian people. Remind them that their giving helps organizations provide necessary items for people in Syria and for people who have left.

MATERIALS: globe, battery-operated candles, ideally one per child, however a few in the middle could work

