

Children's Resources

The Forgotten People

Children's Resources

Focus on how we can easily forget everyday things

Tea tray challenge

Ask the group for a volunteer who has a 'good memory' and then pick a child to take up the challenge. Take a tray of 8-12 miscellaneous items and reveal them to the group. Take a cloth and cover the tray, asking the children to close their eyes while you remove one or two items. Ask the volunteer if he/she can remember what was taken. Do this as many times as you wish and impress upon the group how easy it is to forget things, even those we have just seen!

Get them thinking

Who has forgotten their mum or dad's birthday? Who has forgotten their lunch or homework? Who has ever been accidentally forgotten by their parents? How did it feel? Get the children to write or draw how it might feel to be forgotten. You could do this on a large piece of paper as a group or individually. Make sure they only write on one side of the paper as we will be using it again.

Bible bit

Does God forget us? Read the following verse to the group:

'But you are God's chosen and special people. You are a group of royal priests and a holy nation. God has brought you out of darkness into his marvellous light.'

(1 Peter 2:9, CEV)

Get the group to write on the other side of the paper how it feels to be 'chosen,' 'special', 'royal', 'holy'. Tell them this is how God sees everyone who loves Him, whoever and wherever they are. The sad thing is that not everyone knows this. There are children around the world who feel rejected, forgotten or alone due to circumstances or experiences, and at MAF we do all we can to make sure they know how God feels about them.



Madagascar

Madagascar- the Movie

Who's heard of Madagascar?

How did you hear about it?

Assuming most will have heard about it because of the Hollywood animated films, suggest asking a little about the films:

Who was your favourite character?

- *Alex the lion*
- *Marty the zebra*
- *Gloria the hippo*
- *Melvin the giraffe*

How did the characters end up in Madagascar? They fell off of a container ship and were washed up on the beaches of Madagascar.

Show the Madagascar children's film.

Madagascar – the reality

Once the DVD is finished, ask the children the following questions – or perhaps if you want to be more creative, make a display board depicting the real Madagascar through your discussion:

- What similarities did they notice between their lives and the lives of children in Madagascar?
- What differences did they notice between their lives and the lives of children in Madagascar?
- Who spotted the plane?
- What was the plane doing?
(Answers could be 'reaching the village', 'taking a doctor to see the sick', or 'taking supplies to the villagers'.)
- Why do these people need the plane? (Answers could be 'the roads are poor, so they can't be used in the rainy season', or 'they live in a mountainous region where vehicles can't travel', or 'it takes days to walk'.)
- How do you think the children felt when they saw the plane? Why?

Story time

When we first met Peter, he was five years old. He lives in South Sudan – a country that is very hot, very flat and very poor. He lived in a village with his mother and had no toys or games. All he owned, like many other African children, were some sticks for firewood and a plastic sheet for cover.



Peter had been born into a dark world. Dark, because of the terrible war going on. Dark, because he was blind. In the UK, a doctor would have fixed his eyes when he was born, but in South Sudan a doctor is a luxury.

Peter couldn't play chase with his friends. He couldn't read stories. He couldn't see his mum.

One day, he heard a sound he had never heard before – the sound of an MAF aircraft. Aboard the plane was a doctor who could heal him. The next day, Peter was taken to the doctor who operated on his eyes. When the bandages came off, he could see for the first time. Today, Peter is still living in South Sudan, but he can now play with his friends, read stories and see his mother's smiling face.



Prayer time

Balloon prayers. Blow up enough balloons so each child in the group has one, and tie a piece of string to it. Encourage the children to give thanks to God that they are loved and known by name. Lead them in prayers for other children around the world who may feel forgotten by others due to their circumstances, or may not yet know the love of Jesus. When they let go of the balloons this is a picture of their prayer going straight to God.