

# Children's Session/ All-Age Service Ideas

You can use these ideas as part of an all-age service, or for a Sunday school teaching session. They can be combined with the *Arise Africa Children's Talk* and the *Arise Africa Children's Activity Sheet*.

The basic outline is:

## 1. SCAVENGER HUNT

Children have to find items and bring them to the front. You can then use these items as part of the talk or place them around the space as prayer stations.

## 2. CHILDREN'S TALK

A ten-minute children's talk, using the objects found during the scavenger hunt. You can find the outline here.

## 3. PRAYER TIME:

### Prayer Tent or Floor Map Prayers

Put the objects in a tent or around the floor map and use them to inspire prayers.



## 1. SCAVENGER HUNT

For this game, the children will be sent to find items to represent the needs of refugees and internally displaced people.

Many of these items are likely to be around the church building, so you shouldn't need to hide them in advance. But others – such as paper plates – you might want to provide and hide.

If the group of children is quite small, have them work on their own. If the group is quite large, have them working in small teams, sending one person from the team to find the item each time. Let the adults know they are allowed to help!

### Send them to find...

- Some bottled water
- Paper plates
- A coat
- A bag
- A Bible
- A toilet roll (They are likely to need to go into the toilets to find this, so you may wish to check with the church leader if it's okay for the children to leave the main room as part of the game before doing this one. If they would prefer to keep the children in the main room, you could hide some toilet rolls in the room in advance, and let the children know that they can find them in the room where you are.)

**Give the child who brings back each item first a small prize, such as a sweet or a sticker.**

## 2. CHILDREN'S TALK

Once the items have been gathered at the front, you can use the objects as part of the *Arise Africa Children's Talk* to explain the issue of Christian persecution in sub-Saharan Africa.

(You will need some extra objects as well. They are listed in the talk.)

[Download the \*Arise Africa Children's Talk\*](#)

## 3. ARISE AFRICA PRAYERS

If you want, you can further extend the time, by using the objects to help people pray. There are two ways to pray here: using a Prayer Tent, or using the *Arise Africa* floor map. Of course you can do both!

### 3A. ARISE AFRICA PRAYER TENT

#### PRAYER TENT

#### You will need:

- A small, freestanding tent (i.e. not one which needs to be pegged down)
- [Arise Africa prayer diary](#) or print outs of the [Arise Africa prayer slides](#)
- Some of the objects used during the talk
- Optional: Children's activity sheets
- Optional: Post-it notes and pens or pencils

Set up a small tent.

If your group is fairly small, invite everyone to take turns to go into the tent, either on their own or with one or two others, and pray for refugees who may be living in tents like this one. Provide the *Arise Africa* prayer diary or print-outs of the prayer slides to help people who may not know what to pray for.

This could be used while a worship time is taking place.

If that's not possible, provide another activity for people to do while they are waiting to go into the tent. If you are doing this with children, the activity sheets could be a good option. If you are also doing this with adults, perhaps invite them to read through the [Arise Africa prayer diary](#) while they are waiting.

If your group is too large to make it practical for everyone to have a turn sitting inside the tent, provide post-it notes and pens and pencils, and invite people to write their prayers for refugees and stick them on the outside of the tent. For those who are too young to write or just prefer to draw, you could suggest that they draw things that refugees may need that they want to ask God to provide – food, water, etc.

### PRAYER PROPS

#### You will need:

- Pens and/or pencils
- Objects from the Scavenger Hunt/Talk including the toilet roll, bottles of water and paper plates or bowls
- A school exercise book

Invite each person to take one item. Give those who want the toilet paper a few sheets, and those who want the school exercise book a few pages. And people can write on the paper plates or bowls.

Invite the group to write prayers for refugees on these items, inspired by the items. For example, those who have toilet paper may wish to pray for sanitation, those with the pages from the exercise book may wish to pray for education, etc.

Alternatively, if you are doing this with children who are quite young or not so confident at writing, invite them to go around the group

saying a short prayer using the item. You may need to give an example, e.g. *'Dear God, please provide refugees with food to eat, Amen.'*

### 3B. FLOOR MAP PRAYERS

#### You will need:

- The *Arise Africa* floor map
- Post-it notes
- Pens and pencils
- Copies of the [Arise Africa prayer diary](#) or the [Arise Africa prayer slides](#)
- Copies of the World Watch List

Lay out the Africa floor map. Invite people to write or draw prayers on post-it notes for displaced Christians in the different countries shown on the map and stick the post-its on the map. Provide prayer points using the Prayer Diary or Powerpoint slides and copies of the World Watch List to give people ideas of what to pray for.

For those who are too young to write or just prefer to draw, you could suggest that they draw things that refugees may need that they want to ask God to provide – food, water, etc.