

CMSI Children's Resource 2017



Growing in God

Nurturing community in Kenya



Leaders' Guide

Introduction

Welcome to *Growing in God* - CMSI's Children's Resource for 2017

The resource explores what it means to grow up in God's family as His disciples. The special focus this year is on Kenya - and particularly on an 'informal settlement' in Nairobi. CMSI's Global Partner - the Urban Development Programme - is playing an important role in building a strong community and helping people to encounter God.

We hope you enjoy looking through the different elements of the resource and thinking about how best to use the material. Even more importantly, we hope and pray that the project will educate, inspire and encourage the children as they grow in their understanding of God and the mission of His Church throughout the world.

Introducing...

The CMSI Children's Resource



Every year CMSI produces a resource for Sunday schools and churches in Ireland. Also known as 'The Annual Project', the resource has the following objectives:

1. To help children and young people understand more about global mission - and their part in it.
2. To help inform and educate churches about the work of our Global Partners and to encourage support for these Partners through prayer, friendship and finance.
3. To educate children and young people about a particular country and share something about how the Church (our Global Partner) in that country is sharing God's love.
4. To raise funds for a mission project of the featured Global Partner.

The focus of the Children's Resource changes each year – a different country, a different Global Partner, a different type of project. Recent projects have included:

The Beautiful Gate - 2012, Nepal
All Things New - 2013, South Sudan
Little Lights - 2015, DR Congo
The Meeting Place - 2016, Uganda



Introducing...

The *Growing in God* Resource Pack

Growing in God has been designed for use by Sunday schools and other youth or children's groups. Material is provided for four sessions, but can be adapted as required to suit your own context. Additional background material and suggestions for an All-Age Service are also included.

The full Resource Pack includes the following material:

- Leaders' Guide (this booklet)
- Three photocopiable Activity Workbooks
- DVD (with DVD-Rom)
- Sticker Sheets
- Pencils and Kenyan craft items (optional extras)

Leaders' Guide

This booklet contains everything you need to plan your programme, including background information and suggestions for each session and a summary of the activities for each of the following four age-groups:

Yellow: Under-5s **Blue:** 8-11 year-olds
Red: 5-7 year-olds **Purple:** 12+

The final two pages of this Leaders' Guide include suggested material for a special **All-Age Service**.

Workbooks

Photocopiable workbooks are provided for the three younger age groups. You may like to make up a workbook for each child. Alternatively, you can order enough pre-printed, colour workbooks to allow each child to have their own copy.

DVD

There are two parts to the DVD:

- **DVD Films:** 4 short films to play as part of each session.
- **DVD-Rom:** The DVD-Rom contains additional material, including activity templates, printable versions of the workbooks and a selection of still photographs.
To access the DVD-Rom material, you need to insert the DVD into a computer. Once it's loaded, close down (or 'minimise') the DVD player window, then find and select the Folder entitled 'Growing in God 2017'.

Sticker Sheets, Pencils & Craft Items

We'll include sticker sheets with each pack. You can also order pencils (25p/25c each) and Kenyan craft items made by our partners at the Urban Development Programme (£1/€1 each).

Background information

Information and suggestions to help you make the most of each of the four sessions

Growing in God - this year's theme

One of the principal concerns of mission and a significant theme in the Bible is *discipleship* - the process of 'growing in God'. Those who follow Christ are urged to mature in faith, to develop spiritual fruit, to become more like Jesus.

Of course, discipleship is not merely an individual pursuit: it's something we do as part of God's family, it's a community endeavour. We learn alongside others, we worship together and serve together. Discipleship is about *us, growing together*.

If community is the context for Growing in God, it's also a focus for our mission endeavours. We are to help nurture healthy communities, where people can thrive and flourish, where there's stability and a sense of belonging. This is what our Global Partners are doing, as they share God's love and hope in practical, life-changing ways.

The Bible stories we have chosen for this year's Children's Resource all involve children and teenagers, who each play their part in God's unfolding drama. We want to encourage our own children and young people to see themselves in the picture and to keep on Growing in God, as part of His family.

The Urban Development Programme

In 1990, Kibagare, a large slum area in Nairobi, was 'cleared-out' by the government - bulldozers and fires destroyed all the homes and at a stroke, thousands of people were made homeless. Many families who had lost their homes were brought to Kayole, a wide, open area on the other side of the city. Using whatever materials they had salvaged from their former homes, these families built shelters - and a new community was born.

Some of families came together to form a self-help group called *Tujisaidie* ('let's help ourselves'). Two more groups joined and, with support from others (including Louise Githire and CMSI Mission Associate, Isabelle Prondzynski) these groups formed the **Urban Development Programme (UDP)**.

From the beginning, the philosophy was 'Building Community from the ground up.' The three groups held weekly meetings, taking decisions, setting priorities, adopting work plans, collecting member funds, paying for common objectives, and sharing out responsibilities. All Saints' Cathedral (Nairobi) and CMSI then helped with several grant applications, including water supplies, latrine building, and school bursaries.

Over the last 25 years, the communities have made a massive impact in their local area. Achievements have been small-scale and incremental, but locally owned and therefore long lasting. They include founding and developing the Tujisaidie Primary School (originally a Nursery but now educating almost 400 children to secondary entry level) and the Bahati Community Centre Secondary School.

Through two-way visits, prayer support and financial giving, the links between the Church in Ireland and the UDP have grown stronger. We're delighted to share this story more widely through this year's Children's Resource.

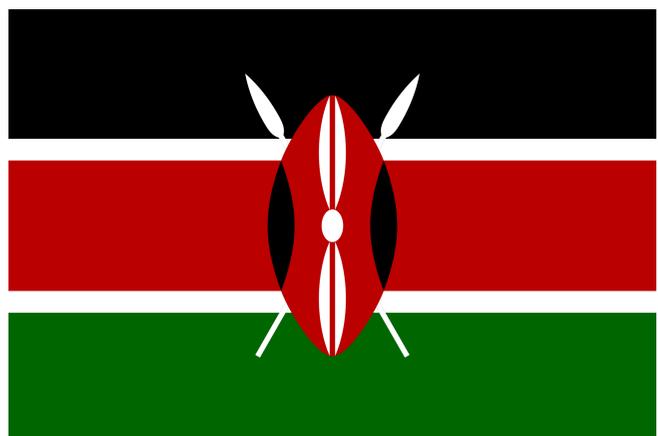
10 Facts about Kenya

Some simple facts about the country - you may want to share some, or all of these, with your children.

1. It has a coastline on the Indian Ocean.
2. The capital city is Nairobi.
3. The country has won 100 Olympic medals, including 31 golds, since 1956. 93 of these medals have been in athletics; 7 in boxing.
4. The equator runs through it.
5. The two official languages are English and Swahili, but there are lots of other languages.
6. They drive on the left-hand side of the road.
7. The last time a volcano erupted was 1922.
8. There are 160,000 km of roads - that would take you around the world over six times.
9. There are over 100 different types of birds and 110 types of bat.
10. The three biggest exported products are coffee, tea and flowers

Flag of Kenya

The flag was adopted in December 12, 1963. The colour black represents the people of the Republic of Kenya, red for the blood shed during the fight for independence, and green for the country's landscape and natural wealth. The white 'fimbriation' lines were added later to symbolise peace and honesty. The black, red, and white traditional Maasai shield and two spears symbolise the defence of all the things mentioned above.



Suggestions for using the DVD



Each session outline includes a time to watch the short film on the DVD. After showing the DVD film, you may want to ask a few questions about what the children have just seen. A few suggestions are listed below. You can adjust these questions, as appropriate, for the various ages and you may want to use some of them *before you watch*, to help the children focus.

Film 1

This film introduces this year's theme - **Growing in God** - and highlights the importance of growing up in the family of God and considers some of the ways in which this happens.

- ★ What things help us to grow up in our own lives?
- ★ What things help us to grow as disciples in God's family?

Film 2

This film introduces the country of Kenya.

- ★ Name some of the differences between life in Kenya and life where you are.
- ★ What sorts of things does the Church in Kenya do? How does this compare with the Church in Ireland?

Film 3

This film introduces the Urban Development Programme (UDP) of All Saints' Cathedral in Nairobi.

- ★ How would you describe the area where the UDP is based?
- ★ What sorts of things does the UDP do to help people?

Film 4

This film shows us some ways in which we can help the UDP, as it cares for the community in Kayole.

- ★ How can we help the UDP?
- ★ How can care for people in our own community?

Going Global

Some parishes using the Children's Resource have a particular interest in one of our Global Partners - they may even have an active 'Partnership Link'.



While we want to encourage the children to learn about a different country each year - including Kenya this time - we also want to help support these different links.

The material for Session 1 - and the DVD film that accompanies it - is intentionally 'general' in application. Some sessions even have a 'Going Global' symbol - highlighting an opportunity to share stories from your own Global Partner.

Competition Instructions

On the back page of the workbooks there is a competition page for each of the age groups. This can be photocopied and distributed to the children.

- The **Yellow Group** (under 5s) should submit their colouring activity from Week 4. Please remember to write in their names and age for them.
- The **Red Group** (5-7s) should each colour-in and decorate the picture and title.
- The **Blue Group** (8-11s) should each design and draw a poster related to something they've learned throughout the project.
- The young people in the **Purple Group** can also enter the competition, by designing an A4 poster with the title **Growing in God**. Encourage your young people to think creatively about what they've learned throughout the different sessions.

Any entries returned to our offices before the end of October will receive a certificate (one per child). If you want certificates for your Children's Day services, please ensure we receive your entries in plenty of time - and indicate your service date.

Entries received by the **24th May** will be included in the 'competition'. The winners will be announced on the CMSI website in June.

Please remember to put the child's name, age and church on each entry and supply a list of all your entries on a separate page to ensure we add the correct details to certificates.

Introducing the Youth Sessions

We have provided outlines for four 'Youth Sessions' - primarily aimed at the 12-15 age group. These can be found towards the back of this Leaders' Guide (purple pages). Each youth session has suggested activities for a 50-60-minute programme. These activities can be used and adapted to suit your particular group and the time available.

For those groups with more time available, perhaps the young people could work on a collaborative craft project under the title '**Growing in God**' - eg. a collage, poster or 'sculpture'.

There may also be activities from the Blue group that you feel are appropriate for the younger members of your youth group. You should use and adapt whatever material (in the Resource Pack) that you feel is most appropriate.

We're suggesting that you produce a '**Prayer Tree**' to use each week. You can draw a simple, 'bare' tree on a large piece of card, or you can project a tree onto a wall each week (See DVD-Rom). The young people can add leaves with prayers - different colours for different types of prayers. The leaves can be cut from pieces of card. Or you can simply use post-it notes.

Fundraising - Supporting the Urban Development Programme

Each year, money is raised through the Children's Resource to help Global Partners engage in real, loving, life-changing mission. This money, and the prayers that go with it, really make a difference. All the money raised for these projects goes from CMSI to the Global Partner.

This year, we want to help the Church in Kenya - and particularly the UDP - in three ways (one big, two small):

1. To build a staff room and toilets for the older students in the Tujisaidie primary school.
2. To purchase stationery and textbooks for the school.
3. To provide one blanket per household for the Tujiihue Young Mothers' Self-Help Group.



Growing in God

Nurturing community in Kenya

Week 1
(Under 5)

Week 1 Focus

Disciples are people who love Jesus and follow him.

Disciples grow in God as members of God's Big family.



Group Time

Introduce the children to the *Growing in God* Children's Resource and briefly explain what the project is about.



DVD - Film 1

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw - perhaps about the different things that are important as we grow up in God's family. Talk about the importance of being a friend of Jesus and following him as a disciple.



Going Global

For those parishes with a specific Partnership Link or an interest in a particular country, this would be a good time to share something about your link and to think about the people who meet together there.



Story Time

2 Kings 22:1-23:3 (Children's version on DVD-Rom)
Help the children to locate the reading in the Bible. Read the passage to them.

Talk about the fact that Josiah was only a young boy when he was made king. Even though he was young, he learned to listen to God and did what God told him. He also learned how important it was to read the bible. These things all made him a great king.



Workbook Activity

Colour in the picture of King Josiah as a young child praying to God.



Craft activity - Crown fit for a King

Materials - thin cardboard, coloured paper, scissors, stapler, glue, paint and decorating materials (stickers/glitter).

Instructions:

- ★ Cut the cardboard into a long rectangle, long enough to go around a child's head.
- ★ Cut another rectangle out of coloured paper but make this piece slightly wider.
- ★ Glue the coloured paper to the cardboard.
- ★ Cut a zigzag along the top of the coloured paper to make a crown pattern.

- ★ Decorate the coloured paper with paint and use stickers and glitter.
- ★ When decorated, staple the crown together so it fits onto the child's head.

(You may wish to prepare the crown shapes beforehand for this age group and allow the children to focus on decorating their crowns).



Memory Verse - John 13:35

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Read the verse aloud and add actions to some of the words (e.g know, God, work, good, love, Him). Ask the children to repeat the verse with you and copy your actions.



Round-up

Ask the children what things they have learned from today's lesson. You may want to give them some plain paper to draw a picture.

You may like to wrap up the lesson with the following questions:

- What did you learn from the Bible story today?
- What did you learn from the DVD film today?
- What can we share with our friends and family?



Prayer

Finish the lesson with the suggested prayer in the red or blue workbooks.



Additional Craft - Make a Bible scroll

Materials - lollipop sticks, paper, sticky tape, ribbon/string, pens.

Instructions:

- ★ Cut the paper to the same dimension as the lollipop sticks.
- ★ Decorate the paper with drawings of King Josiah or the memory verse.
- ★ Glue the lollipop sticks to either side of the paper.
- ★ Roll up the paper from both ends and tie ribbon/string around it to keep it together.



Song suggestion

Josiah the King (DVD-Rom)



Growing in God

Nurturing community in Kenya

Week 2
(Under 5)

Week 2 Focus

Kenya is a country in East Africa and its capital city is Nairobi.
As we grow in God's family, we learn more about God.



Group Time

Spend some time looking at the map of the world and point out where Kenya is. On the Kenya map, highlight the key features and show them where the Nairobi is. Use the Background Information (Pages 2 & 3) to talk about Kenya and share some of the problems the country faces.



Workbook activity

Colour in the flag of Kenya with red, green and black.



DVD - Film 2

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw - perhaps about any differences they noticed about life in Kenya. Ask them what sort of things the Church does in Kenya - how is it different to your own church?



Going Global

For those parishes with a specific Partnership Link or an interest in a particular country, this would be a good time to share something about your link and to think about the people who follow Jesus there.



Story Time

Luke 2:41-52

Help the children to locate the reading in the Bible. Read the passage to them.

Talk about the fact that Jesus was once a boy, who grew up with a mother and father. Even though Jesus was only young, he wanted to spend time with the teachers in the Temple learning more about God with them.



Drama - Hide and seek Jesus

Depending on the size of your class, give character parts to your children: Mary; Joseph; Teachers in the Temple; Jesus.

Recreate the story from Luke with Mary and Joseph searching for Jesus. Help the children to think about how each character may have felt.



Workbook Activity

Colour in the picture of Jesus in the Temple.



Memory Verse - Romans 8:28

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him...

Write the memory verse out on different pieces of card. Hide the words around your hall/ room and ask the children to hunt for the cards. Once they have all been found, help the children to arrange the verse in the right order.



Round-up

Ask the children what things they have learned from today's lesson. You may want to give them some plain paper to draw a picture.

You may like to wrap up the lesson with the following questions:

- What did you learn from the Bible story today?
- What did you learn from the DVD film today?
- What can we share with our friends and family?



Prayer

Finish the lesson with the suggested prayer in the red or blue workbooks.



Additional Activity - Tasty Temple

Materials - plain cake cut into 1 inch cubes, paper plates, strawberries.

Give each child some cake cubes on a paper plate, and let children build Temple walls with the cake. Explain that Jesus was sitting in the Temple with the teachers of the law when his parents found him. Children may want to have several strawberries 'sit' on the walls before eating the tasty treat!



Song suggestion

Here is Jesus (DVD-Rom)



Growing in God

Nurturing community in Kenya

Week 3
(Under 5)

Week 3 Focus

The Urban Development Programme helps care for people.
As we grow in God's family, we care for the needs of others.



Group Time

Recap on the theme of *Growing in God* and remind the children of the key lessons of the first two weeks. The Church in Kenya helps people who are poor to support each other and grow as a community.

Play 'Community Clumps' - ask the children to find others who shares the same birthday month; same school class; same pet; same hair colour...etc.



DVD - Film 3

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw. Ask them what they noticed about the Urban Development Programme and the sorts of things it does.



Story Time

2 Kings 5:1-14

Help the children to locate the reading in the Bible. Read the passage to them.

Talk about how the servant girl in the story cared for Naaman and wanted to help him get better. Discuss ways in which we can help others in our family, school, towns or even further away in Kenya.



Workbook activity

Point out the sad and happy faces on the maze. Help the children to find their way through the maze to reach the happy face.



Craft activity - Naaman takes a dip

Materials - Polystyrene/paper cup, lollipop stick, stick figure cut out of card/paper, scissors, glue, pens.

- ★ Let the children colour the outside of a small cup with blue crayons to create water.
- ★ Teacher writes 'Naaman obeyed God and was healed' around the rim of cup with a pen.
- ★ Draw and colour-in a stick figure of Naaman - one side happy face with no spots; other side sad face with lots of red spots. Attach to lollipop stick.
- ★ Teacher pokes hole in bottom of cup and the children make Naaman go up and down out of the water seven times.



Workbook Activity

Colour in the picture of Naaman talking to his servant girl.



Memory Verse - John 15: 12

"My command is this: love each other as I have loved you."

Blow up balloons of different sizes and colours and write one or two words of the memory verse on each balloon. Repeat the memory verse and after each reading, pop one of the balloons. Repeat until all the balloons have been burst and the children can say the whole verse.



Round-up

Ask the children what things they have learned from today's lesson. You may want to give them some plain paper to draw a picture.

You may like to wrap up the lesson with the following questions:

- What did you learn from the Bible story today?
- What did you learn from the DVD film today?
- What can we share with our friends and family



Prayer

Finish the lesson with the suggested prayer in the red or blue workbooks.



Additional Craft - Helping Hands Banner

Through the story of Naaman and his servant girl, we learned that God wants us to care about other people and do our best to help them.

Make a banner to display in your church or halls with each of the children's handprints to show that no matter how small we are, God can use us to help others.

Write "Helping hands helping others" at the centre of your banner and allow your children to use different coloured paints to make bright and colourful handprints.



Growing in God

Nurturing community in Kenya

Week 4
(Under 5)

Week 4 Focus

We can help support the Urban Development Programme.

As we grow in God's family, we learn to trust Him more.



Group Time

Spend some time reminding the children about all the things they have learned about Kenya and the Urban Development Programme. Use the photos on the DVD-Rom or in the red/blue workbooks to help them remember.

Can the children think of one way they would like to grow in God? Perhaps something they have learned from the stories about children in the bible?



DVD Film

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw. Ask them how they can help the UDP to care for people.



Story Time

Daniel 3 (children's version on DVD-Rom)

Help the children to locate the reading in the Bible. Read the passage to them.

Explain that the three friends loved God and refused to worship another God, even though this meant they were put in the fiery furnace. They trusted God to look after them - and He did!



Workbook activity

Complete the competition on the back page of the workbook: Make *Growing in God* posters by colouring in the picture on the worksheet.



Going Global

The focus of support and fundraising for the *Growing In God* resource is the UDP in Nairobi, Kenya.

If you have a Partnership Link, you may want to explain that your parish also supports a different Global Partner in these ways.



Memory Verse - Daniel 6:26

For He is the living God and He endures forever...

Draw a jigsaw using the words of the memory verse on a large piece of card and cut out each jigsaw piece. Start with a complete jigsaw and repeat the verse. Then ask a child to remove a piece of the jigsaw. Repeat this until there are no pieces left.



Fundraising

If you haven't already done so, you could talk to your children about how to raise money for the *Growing in God* project in Kenya.



Round-up

Ask the children what things they have learned from today's lesson. You may want to give them some plain paper to draw a picture.

You may like to wrap up the lesson with the following questions:

- What did you learn from the Bible story today?
- What did you learn from the DVD film today?
- What can we share with our friends and family?



Prayer

Finish the lesson with the suggested prayer in the red or blue workbooks.



Growing in God

Nurturing community in Kenya

Week 1
(5-7)

Week 1 Focus

Disciples are people who love Jesus and follow him.

Disciples grow in God as members of God's Big family.



Group Time

Introduce the children to the *Growing in God* Children's Resource and briefly explain what the project is about.



Workbook activity

Complete the 'What is a Disciple' activity and draw a picture of a disciple in action.



DVD - Film 1

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw - perhaps about the different things that are important as we grow up in God's family. Talk about the importance of being a friend of Jesus and following him as a disciple.



Going Global

For those parishes with a specific Partnership Link or an interest in a particular country, this would be a good time to share something about your link and to think about the people who meet together there.



Story Time

2 Kings 22:1-23:3 (Children's version on DVD-Rom)
Help the children to locate the reading in the Bible. Read the passage to them.

Talk about the fact that Josiah was only a young boy when he was made king. Even though he was young, he learned to listen to God and did what God told him. He also learned how important it was to read the bible. These things all made him a great king.



Workbook Activity

Colour in the picture of Josiah as a young king and find your way through the Royal Maze.



Craft activity - Crown fit for a King

Materials - thin cardboard, coloured paper, scissors, stapler, glue, paint and decorating materials (stickers/glitter).

Instructions:

- ★ Cut the cardboard into a long rectangle, long enough to go around a child's head.
- ★ Cut another rectangle out of coloured paper but make this piece slightly wider.
- ★ Glue the coloured paper to the cardboard.

- ★ Cut a zigzag along the top of the coloured paper to make a crown pattern.
- ★ Decorate the coloured paper with paint and use stickers and glitter.
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(You may wish to prepare the crown shapes beforehand for this age group and allow the children to focus on decorating their crowns).



Memory Verse - John 13:35

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Read the verse aloud and add actions to some of the words (e.g know, God, work, good, love, Him). Ask the children to repeat the verse with you and copy your actions.



Round-up

Ask the children what things they have learned from today's lesson. You may want to give them some plain paper to draw a picture.

You may like to wrap up the lesson with the following questions:

- What did you learn from the Bible story today?
- What did you learn from the DVD film today?
- What can we share with our friends and family?



Prayer

Finish the lesson with the suggested prayer in the workbooks.



Additional Craft - Make a Bible scroll

Materials - lollipop sticks, paper, sticky tape, ribbon/string, pens.

Instructions:

- ★ Cut the paper to the same dimension as the lollipop sticks.
- ★ Decorate the paper with drawings of King Josiah or the memory verse.
- ★ Glue the lollipop sticks to either side of the paper.
- ★ Roll up the paper from both ends and tie ribbon/string around it to keep it together.



Song suggestion

Josiah the King (DVD-Rom)



Growing in God

Nurturing community in Kenya

Week 2
(5-7)

Week 2 Focus

Kenya is a country in East Africa and its capital city is Nairobi.
As we grow in God's family, we learn more about God.



Group Time

Spend some time looking at the map of the world and point out where Kenya is. On the Kenya map, highlight the key features and show them where the Nairobi is. Use the Background Information (Pages 2 & 3) to talk about Kenya and share some of the problems the country faces.



Workbook activity

Complete the activities about Kenya - the map facts and the flag



DVD - Film 2

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw - perhaps about any differences they noticed about life in Kenya. Ask them what sort of things the Church does in Kenya - how is it different to your own church?



Going Global

For those parishes with a specific Partnership Link or an interest in a particular country, this would be a good time to share something about your link and to think about the people who follow Jesus there.



Story Time

Luke 2:41-52

Help the children to locate the reading in the Bible. Read the passage to them.

Talk about the fact that Jesus was once a boy, who grew up with a mother and father. Even though Jesus was only young, he wanted to spend time with the teachers in the Temple learning more about God with them.



Drama - Hide and seek Jesus

Depending on the size of your class, give character parts to your children: Mary; Joseph; Teachers in the Temple; Jesus.

Recreate the story from Luke with Mary and Joseph searching for Jesus. Help the children to think about how each character may have felt.



Workbook Activity

Colour in the Find Jesus activity and complete the word search about the Bible story.



Memory Verse - Romans 8:28

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him...

Write the memory verse out on different pieces of card. Hide the words around your hall/ room and ask the children to hunt for the cards. Once they have all been found, help the children to arrange the verse in the right order.



Round-up

Ask the children what things they have learned from today's lesson. You may want to give them some plain paper to draw a picture.

You may like to wrap up the lesson with the following questions:

- What did you learn from the Bible story today?
- What did you learn from the DVD film today?
- What can we share with our friends and family?



Prayer

Finish the lesson with the suggested prayer in the workbooks.



Additional Activity - Tasty Temple

Materials - plain cake cut into 1 inch cubes, paper plates, strawberries.

Give each child some cake cubes on a paper plate, and let children build Temple walls with the cake. Explain that Jesus was sitting in the Temple with the teachers of the law when his parents found him. Children may want to have several strawberries 'sit' on the walls before eating the tasty treat!



Song suggestion

Here is Jesus (DVD-Rom)



Growing in God

Nurturing community in Kenya

Week 3
(5-7)

Week 3 Focus

The Urban Development Programme helps care for people.
As we grow in God's family, we care for the needs of others.



Group Time

Recap on the theme of *Growing in God* and remind the children of the key lessons of the first two weeks. The Church in Kenya helps people who are poor to support each other and grow as a community.

Play 'Community Clumps' - ask the children to find others who shares the same birthday month; same school class; same pet; same hair colour...etc.



DVD - Film 3

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw. Ask them what they noticed about the Urban Development Programme and the sorts of things it does.



Story Time

2 Kings 5:1-14

Help the children to locate the reading in the Bible. Read the passage to them.

Talk about how the servant girl in the story cared for Naaman and wanted to help him get better. Discuss ways in which we can help others in our family, school, towns or even further away in Kenya.



Workbook activity

Help the children in groups, or on their own, to complete the Word Mining activity. Colour-in the picture of Naaman and the servant girl.



Craft activity - Naaman takes a dip

Materials - Polystyrene/paper cup, lollipop stick, stick figure cut out of card/paper, scissors, glue, pens.

- ★ Let the children colour the outside of a small cup with blue crayons to create water.
- ★ Teacher writes 'Naaman obeyed God and was healed' around the rim of cup with a pen.
- ★ Draw and colour-in a stick figure of Naaman - one side happy face with no spots; other side sad face with lots of red spots. Attach to lollipop stick.
- ★ Teacher pokes hole in bottom of cup and the children make Naaman go up and down out of the water seven times.



Workbook Activity

Complete the 'Hidden Objects' picture and the 'Helping Hands' activity.



Memory Verse - John 15: 12

"My command is this: love each other as I have loved you."

Blow up balloons of different sizes and colours and write one or two words of the memory verse on each balloon. Repeat the memory verse and after each reading, pop one of the balloons. Repeat until all the balloons have been burst and the children can say the whole verse.



Round-up

Ask the children what things they have learned from today's lesson. You may want to give them some plain paper to draw a picture.

You may like to wrap up the lesson with the following questions:

- What did you learn from the Bible story today?
- What did you learn from the DVD film today?
- What can we share with our friends and family



Prayer

Finish the lesson with the suggested prayer in the workbooks.



Additional Craft - Helping Hands Banner

Through the story of Naaman and his servant girl, we learned that God wants us to care about other people and do our best to help them.

Make a banner to display in your church or halls with each of the children's handprints to show that no matter how small we are, God can use us to help others.

Write "Helping hands helping others" at the centre of your banner and allow your children to use different coloured paints to make bright and colourful handprints.



Growing in God

Nurturing community in Kenya

Week 4
(5-7)

Week 4 Focus

We can help support the Urban Development Programme.
As we grow in God's family, we learn to trust Him more.



Group Time

Spend some time reminding the children about all the things they have learned about Kenya and the Urban Development Programme. Use the photos on the DVD-Rom or in the red/blue workbooks to help them remember.

Can the children think of one way they would like to grow in God? Perhaps something they have learned from the stories about children in the bible?



DVD Film

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw. Ask them how they can help the UDP to care for people.



Story Time

Daniel 3 (children's version on DVD-Rom)

Help the children to locate the reading in the Bible. Read the passage to them.

Explain that the three friends loved God and refused to worship another God, even though this meant they were put in the fiery furnace. They trusted God to look after them - and He did!



Workbook activity

Complete the first three activities in the workbook - 'Spot the difference'; 'Code breaker'; 'Escape the heat'.



Going Global

The focus of support and fundraising for the *Growing In God* resource is the UDP in Nairobi, Kenya.

If you have a Partnership Link, you may want to explain that your parish also supports a different Global Partner in these ways.



Memory Verse - Daniel 6:26

For He is the living God and He endures forever...

Draw a jigsaw using the words of the memory verse on a large piece of card and cut out each jigsaw piece. Start with a complete jigsaw and and repeat the verse. Then ask a child to remove a piece of the jigsaw. Repeat this until there are no pieces left.



Workbook activity

Competition: allow the children plenty of time to create colourful posters about *Growing in God*.



Fundraising

If you haven't already done so, you could talk to your children about how to raise money for the *Growing in God* project in Kenya.



Round-up

Ask the children what things they have learned from today's lesson. You may want to give them some plain paper to draw a picture.

You may like to wrap up the lesson with the following questions:

- What did you learn from the Bible story today?
- What did you learn from the DVD film today?
- What can we share with our friends and family?



Prayer

Finish the lesson with the suggested prayer in the workbooks.



Growing in God

Nurturing community in Kenya

Week 1
(8-11)

Week 1 Focus

Disciples are people who love Jesus and follow him.
Disciples grow in God as members of God's Big family.



Group Time

Introduce the children to the *Growing in God* Children's Resource and briefly explain what the project is about.



Workbook activity

Complete the 'What is a Disciple' activity and draw a picture of a disciple in action.



DVD - Film 1

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw - perhaps about the different things that are important as we grow up in God's family. Talk about the importance of being a friend of Jesus and following him as a disciple.



Going Global

For those parishes with a specific Partnership Link or an interest in a particular country, this would be a good time to share something about your link and to think about the people who meet together there.



Story Time

2 Kings 22:1-23:3 (Children's version on DVD-Rom)
Help the children to locate the reading in the Bible. Read the passage to them.

Talk about the fact that Josiah was only a young boy when he was made king. Even though he was young, he learned to listen to God and did what God told him. He also learned how important it was to read the bible. These things all made him a great king.



Workbook Activity

Complete the 'Follow the Letters' activity and find your way through the Royal Maze.



Craft activity - Crown fit for a King

Materials - thin cardboard, coloured paper, scissors, stapler, glue, paint and decorating materials (stickers/glitter).

Instructions:

- ★ Cut the cardboard into a long rectangle, long enough to go around a child's head.
- ★ Cut another rectangle out of coloured paper but make this piece slightly wider.
- ★ Glue the coloured paper to the cardboard.

- ★ Cut a zigzag along the top of the coloured paper to make a crown pattern.
- ★ Decorate the coloured paper with paint and use stickers and glitter.
- ★ When decorated, staple the crown together so it fits onto the child's head.

(You may wish to prepare the crown shapes beforehand for this age group and allow the children to focus on decorating their crowns).



Memory Verse - John 13:35

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Read the verse aloud and add actions to some of the words (e.g know, God, work, good, love, Him). Ask the children to repeat the verse with you and copy your actions.



Round-up

Ask the children what things they have learned from today's lesson. You may want to give them some plain paper to draw a picture.

You may like to wrap up the lesson with the following questions:

- What did you learn from the Bible story today?
- What did you learn from the DVD film today?
- What can we share with our friends and family?



Prayer

Finish the lesson with the suggested prayer in the workbooks.



Additional Craft - Make a Bible scroll

Materials - lollipop sticks, paper, sticky tape, ribbon/string, pens.

Instructions:

- ★ Cut the paper to the same dimension as the lollipop sticks.
- ★ Decorate the paper with drawings of King Josiah or the memory verse.
- ★ Glue the lollipop sticks to either side of the paper.
- ★ Roll up the paper from both ends and tie ribbon/string around it to keep it together.



Song suggestion

Josiah the King (DVD-Rom)



Growing in God

Nurturing community in Kenya

Week 2
(8-11)

Week 2 Focus

Kenya is a country in East Africa and its capital city is Nairobi.
As we grow in God's family, we learn more about God.



Group Time

Spend some time looking at the map of the world and point out where Kenya is. On the Kenya map, highlight the key features and show them where the Nairobi is. Use the Background Information (Pages 2 & 3) to talk about Kenya and share some of the problems the country faces.



Workbook activity

Complete the activities about Kenya - the map facts and the flag



DVD - Film 2

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw - perhaps about any differences they noticed about life in Kenya. Ask them what sort of things the Church does in Kenya - how is it different to your own church?



Going Global

For those parishes with a specific Partnership Link or an interest in a particular country, this would be a good time to share something about your link and to think about the people who follow Jesus there.



Story Time

Luke 2:41-52

Help the children to locate the reading in the Bible. Read the passage to them.

Talk about the fact that Jesus was once a boy, who grew up with a mother and father. Even though Jesus was only young, he wanted to spend time with the teachers in the Temple learning more about God with them.



Drama - Hide and seek Jesus

Depending on the size of your class, give character parts to your children: Mary; Joseph; Teachers in the Temple; Jesus.

Recreate the story from Luke with Mary and Joseph searching for Jesus. Help the children to think about how each character may have felt.



Workbook Activity

Fill in the missing words from the paragraph and draw a cartoon about Jesus as a child in the Temple.



Memory Verse - Romans 8:28

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him...

Write the memory verse out on different pieces of card. Hide the words around your hall/ room and ask the children to hunt for the cards. Once they have all been found, help the children to arrange the verse in the right order.



Round-up

Ask the children what things they have learned from today's lesson. You may want to give them some plain paper to draw a picture.

You may like to wrap up the lesson with the following questions:

- What did you learn from the Bible story today?
- What did you learn from the DVD film today?
- What can we share with our friends and family?



Prayer

Finish the lesson with the suggested prayer in the workbooks.



Additional Activity - Tasty Temple

Materials - plain cake cut into 1 inch cubes, paper plates, strawberries.

Give each child some cake cubes on a paper plate, and let children build Temple walls with the cake. Explain that Jesus was sitting in the Temple with the teachers of the law when his parents found him. Children may want to have several strawberries 'sit' on the walls before eating the tasty treat!



Song suggestion

Here is Jesus (DVD-Rom)



Growing in God

Nurturing community in Kenya

Week 3
(8-11)

Week 3 Focus

The Urban Development Programme helps care for people.
As we grow in God's family, we care for the needs of others.



Group Time

Recap on the theme of *Growing in God* and remind the children of the key lessons of the first two weeks. The Church in Kenya helps people who are poor to support each other and grow as a community.

Play 'Community Clumps' - ask the children to find others who shares the same birthday month; same school class; same pet; same hair colour...etc.



DVD - Film 3

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw. Ask them what they noticed about the Urban Development Programme and the sorts of things it does.



Story Time

2 Kings 5:1-14

Help the children to locate the reading in the Bible. Read the passage to them.

Talk about how the servant girl in the story cared for Naaman and wanted to help him get better. Discuss ways in which we can help others in our family, school, towns or even further away in Kenya.



Workbook activity

Help the children in groups, or on their own, to complete the Word Mining activity. Colour-in the picture to show how many times Naaman washed in the River Jordan.



Craft activity - Naaman takes a dip

Materials - Polystyrene/paper cup, lollipop stick, stick figure cut out of card/paper, scissors, glue, pens.

- ★ Let the children colour the outside of a small cup with blue crayons to create water.
- ★ Teacher writes 'Naaman obeyed God and was healed' around the rim of cup with a pen.
- ★ Draw and colour-in a stick figure of Naaman - one side happy face with no spots; other side sad face with lots of red spots. Attach to lollipop stick.
- ★ Teacher pokes hole in bottom of cup and the children make Naaman go up and down out of the water seven times.



Workbook Activity

Complete the 'Hidden Objects' picture and the 'Helping Hands' activity.



Memory Verse - John 15: 12

"My command is this: love each other as I have loved you."

Blow up balloons of different sizes and colours and write one or two words of the memory verse on each balloon. Repeat the memory verse and after each reading, pop one of the balloons. Repeat until all the balloons have been burst and the children can say the whole verse.



Round-up

Ask the children what things they have learned from today's lesson. You may want to give them some plain paper to draw a picture.

You may like to wrap up the lesson with the following questions:

- What did you learn from the Bible story today?
- What did you learn from the DVD film today?
- What can we share with our friends and family



Prayer

Finish the lesson with the suggested prayer in the workbooks.



Additional Craft - Helping Hands Banner

Through the story of Naaman and his servant girl, we learned that God wants us to care about other people and do our best to help them.

Make a banner to display in your church or halls with each of the children's handprints to show that no matter how small we are, God can use us to help others.

Write "Helping hands helping others" at the centre of your banner and allow your children to use different coloured paints to make bright and colourful handprints.



Growing in God

Nurturing community in Kenya

Week 4
(8-11)

Week 4 Focus

We can help support the Urban Development Programme.
As we grow in God's family, we learn to trust Him more.



Group Time

Spend some time reminding the children about all the things they have learned about Kenya and the Urban Development Programme. Use the photos on the DVD-Rom or in the red/blue workbooks to help them remember.

Can the children think of one way they would like to grow in God? Perhaps something they have learned from the stories about children in the bible?



DVD Film

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw. Ask them how they can help the UDP to care for people.



Story Time

Daniel 3 (children's version on DVD-Rom)

Help the children to locate the reading in the Bible. Read the passage to them.

Explain that the three friends loved God and refused to worship another God, even though this meant they were put in the fiery furnace. They trusted God to look after them - and He did!



Workbook activity

Complete the first three activities in the workbook - 'Spot the difference'; 'Fire Maze'; 'Code breaker'.



Going Global

The focus of support and fundraising for the *Growing In God* resource is the UDP in Nairobi, Kenya.

If you have a Partnership Link, you may want to explain that your parish also supports a different Global Partner in these ways.



Memory Verse - Daniel 6:26

For He is the living God and He endures forever...

Draw a jigsaw using the words of the memory verse on a large piece of card and cut out each jigsaw piece. Start with a complete jigsaw and and repeat the verse. Then ask a child to remove a piece of the jigsaw. Repeat this until there are no pieces left.



Workbook activity

Competition: allow the children plenty of time to create colourful posters about *Growing in God*.



Fundraising

If you haven't already done so, you could talk to your children about how to raise money for the *Growing in God* project in Kenya.



Round-up

Ask the children what things they have learned from today's lesson. You may want to give them some plain paper to draw a picture.

You may like to wrap up the lesson with the following questions:

- What did you learn from the Bible story today?
- What did you learn from the DVD film today?
- What can we share with our friends and family?



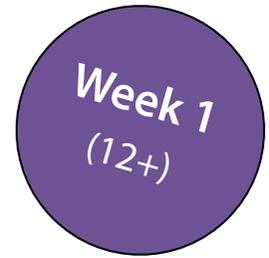
Prayer

Finish the lesson with the suggested prayer in the workbooks.



Growing in God

Nurturing community in Kenya



Week 1 Focus

Disciples are people who follow Jesus and seek to become more like him.
Disciples grow as members of God's family - a worldwide community.

Prep for the session

For the Memory Verse Activity, you'll need disposable bowls, spoons and food to put in the bowls (eg. breakfast cereal and milk). On the inside bottom of each bowl, write one or two words from the memory verse (enough for everyone to be involved), then add the dry cereal to cover.

Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Colossians 2:7

See Page 4 for details of the Prayer Tree. You'll need to have some 'prayer leaves' - perhaps just one colour - and pens available.

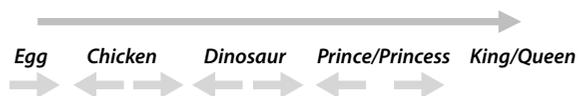


Getting started [5-10 mins]

Egg, Chicken, Dinosaur

The aim is to grow and work your way up to being a king or queen by beating other players at Rock-Paper-Scissors.

Everyone starts out as an egg. Find another egg and play R-P-S. The winner 'grows' into a chicken and finds another chicken to play against. The loser remains an egg. The winner of Chicken v Chicken 'grows' into a dinosaur. The loser returns to being an egg. And so on. You play against someone else at your level; you move one along if you win; you move one back if you lose. Once you're a king or queen, move to the side and feel smug. The game finishes when there is one egg, one chicken, one dinosaur and one prince/princess. All other players will be kings or queens.



To make it even sillier...Eggs waddle on the ground in a little ball; chickens walk and squat while flapping their wings and 'clicking'; dinosaurs 'roar' standing up; princes/princesses 'prance' around holding an imaginary sceptre while kings and queens stand off to the side victoriously.



DVD [10+ mins]

Show the first film on the *Growing in God* DVD. Afterwards, have a brief chat about 'growing in God'.



Opening it up [5-10 mins]

Mirror Mirror

Get the young people to form pairs and have partners sit facing each other. Tell one person in each pair to mirror the other person's actions. After a minute reverse roles.

If you have time...Ask each pair to make up a short sketch in which they do mirror-image movements (eg. wave with one hand then the other, shrug shoulders, fall backwards).



Bible Bit [10+ mins]

Today's story is about Josiah, who became a king when he was just a child, but who learned how important it was to love God and to read and obey His Word.

Read through today's passage: **2 Kings 22:1 - 23:3**
An abridged, simplified version is available on the DVD-Rom

- Why was Josiah seen as a good king? (See vv2)
- When King Josiah receives 'The Book of the Law', he's really upset and angry. Why?
- Things aren't looking good (vv13-17), but King Josiah is told that he will not suffer with everyone else. Why?
- What does Josiah do with the Book (23:1-3)?
- What can we learn from King Josiah about our attitude to the Bible and to what it teaches us?



Memory Verse Activity [5-10 mins]

Eat it up

Explain the challenge. They have to work together and race against the clock to find the memory verse for today. The words are written on the bottom of the bowls of cereal. They need to eat-up, find the words and put the verse together as quickly as possible. You can either do one at a time or all at once, depending on the space and time you have. Set a 'time-limit' accordingly! (Add milk).

Once they've finished, get the young people to read out the Bible verse. Then remove a bowl and read it again. Repeat until all bowls are gone and the verse is learned.



Pulling it together [10+ mins]

Growing-up poster

The young people can either work in small groups or as one big group to produce a large poster showing how we grow-up physically and spiritually. Ask them to give their poster the title 'Growing' and to divide their sheet into two parts: 'physical growth'; 'spiritual growth'.

They should draw, write or stick things to show some things that help us grow well for both categories.



The Prayer Tree [5+ mins]

Today's prayer focus:

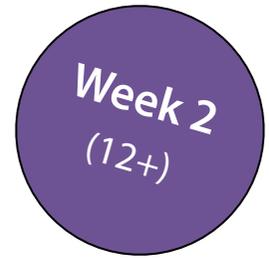
Pray for each other - and for Christians throughout the world - that we would grow as disciples of Jesus.

Finish by praying for the young people.



Growing in God

Nurturing community in Kenya



Week 2 Focus

Introducing Kenya - a country in East Africa.
As we grow in God's family, we learn more about God.

Prep for the session

Prepare 'quick fire questions' for the opening activity. There's a sheet with examples on the DVD-Rom, but you can make up your own. You also need to cut different lengths of string - a pair of each length; enough for all the young people to each have one piece of string.

Print - and cut-up - the Kenya Flag templates from the DVD-Rom. You will need colouring pencils and/or pens.

You'll also need a camera, as well as more 'prayer leaves' (maybe a new colour?) and pens for the prayer activity.



Getting started [10+ mins]

Quick Learners

Part 1: Ask the young people to organise themselves in a line by birthday dates throughout the year (January at one end of the room - December at the other). But they can't talk or use finger numbering throughout! Once they're in a line, get them to sit in pairs - based on where they are in the line - for some quick fire questions. These can be a combination of silly or serious.

Part 2: Give everyone a piece of string. Each string has a 'match' (same length) in the room. They must find their match, then do quick fire questions in their new pairs.



DVD [10+ mins]

Show the second film on the *Growing in God* DVD which introduces us to Kenya.

Afterwards, chat about what you saw and the ways in which Kenya is different from Ireland. Think about some specific needs that people in Kenya may have.



Going Global

For those parishes with a specific Partnership Link or an interest in a particular country, this would be a good time to share something about that.



Opening it up [10+ mins]

Flag it up

Part 1: Give out the Kenya Flag templates with colouring pens/pencils and ask the young people to produce their own Kenya flags. Explain the meaning of the colours and symbols (see Background Information on page 3).

Part 2: If you have time, do the Kenya Quiz. You could read out the questions and provide two or three possible answers (with part of the room corresponding to each answer). The young people move to their 'answer area'. Alternatively, you could just let the young people do the quiz themselves on paper.



Bible Bit [10+ mins]

At Christmas, we think about Jesus as a baby; but mostly, we learn stories about him as an adult. However, Jesus had to grow up, just like all of us. Today's story takes place when he was 12 years old.

Read through the passage: **Luke 2:41-52**

- On the long walk home, why did Jesus' parents not realise he wasn't with them? (If helpful, explain that, in Jesus' time 'family' had a much broader/wider meaning than for us today. Extended families and communities were very close and shared responsibility for raising children).
- How do you think Jesus' parents were feeling as they searched for him?
- What activities was Jesus doing at the temple?
- Why do you think it was so important for Jesus to be at his Father's house?
- What else does the passage teach us about Jesus' teenage years?



Pulling it together [15+ mins]

Get the young people to work together to produce a photo series that tells today's Bible story in no more than 12 photos. They can do a quick story board plan together (and even write a simple headline or caption for each photo on some card). Then you can take the photos. Make sure everyone is involved.



The Prayer Tree [5+ mins]

Use a new colour of 'leaves' for today's prayer focus:

Pray for the country of Kenya and for the Church there and in other parts of the world.

You may want to chat about the prayers together. The young people can write their prayers and stick them on the tree. They could read out the prayers as they stick.



Alternative Activity [5-10 mins]

Memory Verse

Help the young people learn the second part of the verse they started learning in the last session. You could use one of the memory verse activities from the other age groups, or try your own method.

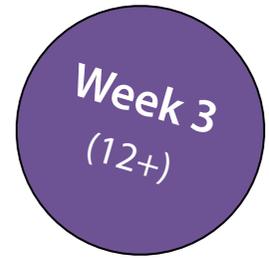
Here's the whole verse, with the new bit in black type:

Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. [Colossians 2:7]



Growing in God

Nurturing community in Kenya



Week 3 Focus

Introducing the Urban Development Programme - which helps to nurture community.
As we grow in God's family, we care for the needs of others.

Prep for the session

Before the young people arrive, move all the chairs over to the wall so that the floor area is clear for the game of Community Clumps.

Print off the Alpha-get to know you sheets (from the DVD-Rom).

For the community poster(s), you will need a few big sheets of paper/ card, along with some newspapers/magazines, scissors, glue, markers or felt-tip pens.

You'll also need more 'prayer leaves' (maybe two new colours?) and pens for the prayer activity.

- What do we know about Naaman? What sort of person is he? What needs does he have?
- Why do you think the young girl's part in this story is so significant?
- Why do you think the King of Israel is so upset when he receives the letter from the other king?
- When Naaman receives Elisha's message...why do you think he's so angry? What does this suggest about him?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- In this story, lots of people help Naaman to be cured. Who helps him and how do they help him? What can we learn from this story about how followers of Jesus today can help people who are in need?



Getting started [10+ mins]

Community Clumps

The young people run (or 'mill') around the room until you shout out a 'category' (eg. same birth month; same school; same coloured top; same colour of hair...). They need to quickly get into the relevant 'community clumps'.

Explain that a 'community' is simply a group of people who live in the same place or who share something in common.



DVD [10+ mins]

Show the third film on the *Growing in God* DVD which introduces the work of the Urban Development Programme (UDP).

Afterwards, invite the young people to talk about what they saw - they may like to ask questions, or you could ask them to describe the area in which the UDP works and to think about the sorts of needs that people in that community might have.



Opening it up [5+ mins]

Alpha-get to know you

Give each person a pen and a sheet of paper with the letters of the alphabet on the left hand side (template available on DVD-Rom).

Everyone tries to find things out about the others in the room that starts with each letter of the alphabet and they write the info on the line beside the letter. For example...

A: Rachel is allergic to **Apples**

B: Jenny plays **Basketball**

C: Anne's favourite **Chocolate** treat is a **Walnut Whip**

They can't use the same name more than four times. Give them 5-7 minutes and see who completes the most letters.



Pulling it together [15+ mins]

Our Community Poster

Ask the young people to come up with ideas for a poster that describes their own community and identifies the sorts of needs that people might have. Before starting on the posters, it's worth having a chat together to come up with a few ideas.

The young people can draw, write or stick (pictures or headlines from the magazine/newspapers). If you have lots of young people, you could split them into two or three groups, with each group working on a poster.



Bible Bit [10+ mins]

Provide a quick context to the story - It takes place during the time of the prophet Elisha, who was a special messenger from God.

Read through the passage: **2 Kings 2:5**.



The Prayer Tree [5+ mins]

Use two new colours of 'leaves' for today's prayers:

- Pray for the work of the UDP and for the community they serve.
- Pray for our own community and for the needs that have been shown on the posters.

You may want to chat about the prayers together. The young people can write their prayers and stick them on the tree. They could read out the prayers as they stick.



Growing in God

Nurturing community in Kenya



Week 4 Focus

We can help the Urban Development Programme to nurture community and change lives.
As we grow in God's family, we learn to put God first and trust Him more.

Prep for the session

Before the young people arrive, move all the chairs over to the wall so that the floor area is clear for the Caring Relays. Depending on the relay races you choose, you may need some items for this activity: plastic cups, chocolate bars, knives and forks, wordsearch or sum...)

For the Growing in God posters, you'll need to give each young person a blank A4 sheet as well as providing colouring-in pens or pencils.

You'll also need post-it notes for the Genie Lamp Rub and more 'prayer leaves' (maybe a new colour?) and pens for the prayer activity.



Getting started [10+ mins]

Caring Relays

A series of relay 'races' with a helping or caring theme (running can be minimised if space or noise are issues). For example:

- Helping people to cross the road (*carrying each other*)
- Helping do some gardening (*wheelbarrow race*)
- Water to the thirsty (*transferring water from one end of the room to the other, in small, plastic cups*)
- Helping with homework (*run, complete a simple sum or find a word in a wordsearch, then return*)
- Feeding the hungry (*use knife and fork to eat a single square of chocolate; once choc is in mouth, run back*)



Bible Bit [10+ mins]

This story takes place after God had allowed Jerusalem to fall into the power of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon. Some of the most talented young, noble Israelites were taken to Babylon to learn the literature and language of the Chaldeans and to serve in the palace of the king. Among them are Daniel and his three friends, who feature in this story.

Read through the passage: **Daniel 3**. It's a long passage, so you may want to use an abridged version - or split-up the passage and get different people to read a section each. Or, you could read the passage while the young people act out the story.

- What does the king command everyone to do?
- Why do the three Jewish teenagers refuse to obey?
- What do the three boys say when the king tells them he will throw them into the fire?
- What is the outcome of this story for the king and for his people? What difference has this incident made?
- What lessons can we learn from Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego?



Opening it up [10+ mins]

The Great Genie Lamp Rub

Give out pens and three post-it notes to each young person. Ask them to take some time to think of three things they would choose if they were granted three wishes. They're not allowed to choose 'Extra or Unlimited Wishes' as one of their choices and they aren't expected to free the genie from the lamp. They should write each of their 'wishes' on three separate post-it notes. These can then be stuck on a wall or a table.

Have a short discussion about the things people chose. Did anyone choose the same things? Why did you choose what you chose? Do you think you'd make the same choices in 5 years' time? Or in 55 years? Would anyone change their three wishes based on the discussion or based on something someone else suggested.



DVD [10+ mins]

Show the fourth film on the *Growing in God DVD*.

Afterwards, have a chat about what you saw and the ways in which we can support the UDP.



Pulling it together [15+ mins]

Growing in God posters (Competition)

Ask the young people to reflect on the *Growing in God* sessions and think about something that they've learned or been challenged by - it could be about Kenya or about something they've learned from the Bible stories - or both!

Invite them to design a poster that sums up their learning. If you enter their posters (either originals or photocopies) for the 'competition', we will post you out certificates.

This is a good opportunity for you to recap the main themes of the four sessions.



The Prayer Tree [5+ mins]

Use a new colour of 'leaves' for today's prayer focus:

- **Pray for Tujisaidie School and for the other programmes of the UDP.**
- **Pray for Christians throughout the world, that they would trust God and put Him first.**
- **Pray that we would trust God and put Him first in our lives.**

You may want to chat about the prayers together. The young people can write their prayers and stick them on the tree. They could read out the prayers as they stick.



Growing in God

Nurturing community in Kenya

All-age
service
material

Many of the parishes that use the CMSI Children's Resource hold a special All-Age Worship Service as part of their programme. This gives the whole congregation a chance to find out what the boys and girls have been, or will be, learning about and it provides an opportunity for everyone to get involved.

The following suggestions might be helpful as you put together your service. Even if you aren't able to dedicate a whole morning service to the Children's Resource, perhaps you could incorporate one or two of the ideas in the morning services on each of the four weeks. (Note: The text is available as a Word Doc on the DVD-Rom).

Introductions

It's worth including a few brief sentences of background and introduction to the theme of this year's project - which explores the importance of growing as a disciple within God's family and of helping to build strong communities.

You may want to make use of some parts of the Introduction and Background Information on pages 1-3. Or perhaps you could work with some of the older children to write a few introduction sentences that they can then read out.

DVD Clips

If you are able to show videos in your church, why not use one or more of the films from the *Growing in God* DVD, to give people a sense of the themes that the children and young people have been exploring and to introduce folk to the Urban Development Programme in Kenya.

The films are very accessible and they are also short, making it easy to include them at any point of the service.

Bidding

Here is some suggested language for The Bidding:

Sisters and brothers, in our worship this morning we will hear stories about our brothers and sisters in the Urban Development Programme in Kenya. As we join together today, we will sing God's praises, we will hear from His word and we will join together in prayer for His world. As we do all these things, we will remember that we do so in our community alongside Christians in God's family, in communities throughout the world.

Prayers and Acclamations

One or more of the following could be included:

Penitence

*Father of all, you made us in your own image yet too often we fail to see your face in the faces of others. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.***

*Son of God, Saviour of all, in your life you knew pain and suffering, yet we ignore too easily the pain and suffering of others. Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.***

*Spirit of God, you unite your people in faith, yet we forget your people too easily. Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.***

Bible Acclamation

(from Ephesians 4:4-6, 'The Message')

*You were called to travel on the same road
and in the same direction,
so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly.*

*You have one Master, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all,*

*who rules over all, works through all,
and is present in all.*

*Everything you are and think and do
is made one in Him.*

(This last response deviates from The Message translation).

Prayers of Intercession

Lord of the Church, as we come to you in prayer we seek your will to be done in all things.

*We pray for the Church throughout your world.
Especially we pray for the Anglican Church in Kenya, and the work of the Urban Development Programme of All Saints' Cathedral.
As King Josiah led your people to deeper understanding of your word and faith,
Lead your people today into a richer relationship with you.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

*Lord of the world, you are all powerful.
We pray for your world, and for the leaders of the world.
Bless our own government, and all those who govern in Kenya.
Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego found themselves at the heart of government,
faced with the challenge to be faithful to you or to deny you.
Strengthen our leaders to be people of integrity, who act in faithfulness to you.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

*Lord of our lives, you are a God of big things and of small things.
Be with those we live with day by day in our families, in our schools and workplaces, in our churches.
Bless our friends and neighbours – those who are nearby and those who are distant;
grant to the people of Kayole in Nairobi a sense of community, and help them to care for one another with kindness and generosity.
As Jesus lived and learned with his community when they journeyed to the temple in Jerusalem,
help us find blessing in those we know and love, that we may learn from them and love them more.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Lord of the poor, the weak, the suffering,
you are a God who knows us and cares for us.
Be with everyone we know who is sick or suffering,
and with those who care for them.
We pray for doctors and nurses and all those
who help people who are sick and suffering;
we ask you to protect and bless the health projects in UDP,
that through love, care and education
lives may be improved in a real way.
As Naaman's servant looked with compassion on her master's
sickness, and responded with wisdom and faith,
help us to have hearts of compassion and gifts of discernment as
we respond to need around us.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Amen.

Blessing

May the zeal of Josiah,
the faithfulness of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego,
the eagerness of the boy Jesus
and the benevolence of the servant girl
be yours this day.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be with you now and always. **Amen**

In those contexts where Family Eucharists are commonplace, we commend the Eucharistic Prayer authorised by the House of Bishops for use when a significant number of children are present (https://www.ireland.anglican.org/cmsfiles/files/worship/pdf/resource_folder/Euch_Prayer_children.pdf) and suggest the use of the following short preface:

You call us into one big family in the Church,
and bring us close to you and each other
in your Son Jesus Christ.

Bible Readings

Any of the stories that feature in the material for the children and young people could be used in the service. Alternatively, one or more of the following passages may be useful:

Matthew 18:19-20 (Where two or three are gathered..)

Mark 2:1-12 (Jesus heals a paralysed man)

Luke 9:28-36 (The Transfiguration)

Possible Song/Hymn Ideas

Suggested Hymns and Songs from the Church Hymnal which might be appropriate:

44 Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer
50 Think of a world without any flowers
94 In the name of Jesus
104 O for a thousand tongues to sing
129 How lovely on the mountains are the feet
195 Lord the light of your love is shining (Shine, Jesus, Shine)
325 Be still for the presence of the Lord
328 Come on and celebrate!
448 The trumpets sound, the angels sing (The Feast)
478 Go forth and tell!
490 The Spirit lives to set us free
494 Beauty for brokenness

499 When I needed a neighbour, were you there?
500 Would you walk by on the other side?
509 Your Kingdom come, O God
514 We cannot measure how you heal
515 A new commandment
596 Seek ye first
658 One more step along the world I go.
717 May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Suggested Hymns and Songs from the Church Hymnal which might be appropriate:

6 All I once held dear, built my life upon
15 Bless the Lord, O my soul
24 Clap your hands all you nations
45 Great is the darkness (Come, Lord Jesus)
52 He's got the whole world in his hands
59 I will offer up my life in Spirit and truth
86 Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness
95 Mayenziwe 'ntando yakho (Your will be done on earth, O Lord).
99 My heart is filled with thankfulness
144 The Church is wherever God's people are praising
150 There is a higher throne
153 Thuma mina (Send me Lord)
175 You're the Lion of Judah

Getting the children involved

As well as inviting children to write or read prayers and read Bible stories, the following suggestions will ensure that the service has lots of involvement from the children.

- ★ Have children up front to sing a song that ties in with the theme of *Growing in God*.
- ★ Have different Sunday school groups recite one of the memory verses that they learned together.
- ★ Do an interview with a couple of older children about what they've learned or what activity they have enjoyed.
- ★ Some 'show and tell' - with the children walking round the church to show pictures and posters they have produced during the project. You could even divide the children up - so they each 'show and tell' to a pew/row or two.

CMSI Speaker

You may want to request a Guest Speaker from CMSI to come and speak at your All-Age Service or to speak to the adults on one of the Sundays when the children are doing their project in Sunday school. In addition to staff members, CMSI has a team of volunteers who speak on behalf of the Society at Sunday services and midweek gatherings. Visit the CMSI website or contact the offices for more information or to request a speaker for your service. (The earlier you can make the request, the better).

Other Ideas

- ★ Interview someone from the parish who is involved in mission at home or overseas.
- ★ Explain a bit about the fundraising element of the Children's Resource and encourage people to give through a retiring offering.
- ★ Organise a simple pot-luck lunch for after the service, where everyone brings something to share. You could use this as a fundraising event, or simply to enjoy fellowship together.

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- * The Little Britains for their early morning film acting.

Map of Kenya

