



**cmsireland**  
equipping the church **in mission**

# IN THE MIDDLE

Church At The Heart Of Mission

**CMSI Children's Resource 2020**

**Burundi**

**Leaders' Guide**

# Introduction



Church At The Heart Of Mission

## Welcome to CMSI's Children's Resource for 2020

Using Bible stories, along with lessons from the global Church, *In The Middle* will help your children and young people discover how God has chosen His people as the means to deliver His mission. We'll learn more about the country of **Burundi** and we'll discover how the Church there is at the heart of communities - offering hope and bringing change to many people.

### Introducing... CMSI

The Church Mission Society Ireland (CMSI) is a Christian mission organisation that exists to help God's people engage in God's mission.

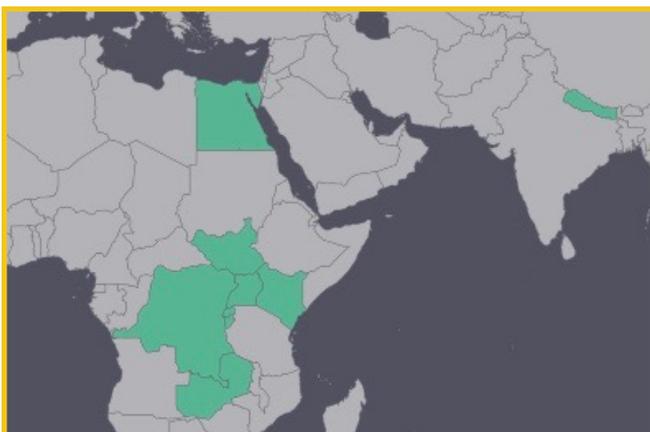
We make connections between different parts of God's global family and we equip churches and individuals as they work together to share God's transforming love.



The Children's Resource is just one of the ways in which we resource the Church in Ireland and encourage parishes to connect with the global Church.

CMSI has developed strong, fruitful relationships with a number of Anglican Dioceses, local churches and Christian organisations in Africa and South Asia. Our relationships with these Global Partners shape much of our work. We currently work with 19 Global Partners in nine countries:

**Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Kenya, Nepal, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and Zambia**



### Introducing... The CMSI Children's Resource

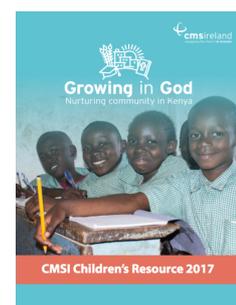
CMSI produces this annual resource:

- ❖ To help children and young people understand more about global mission
- ❖ To help churches learn about - and support - the work of CMSI's Global Partners.
- ❖ To highlight a particular country - and introduce the work of the Church there.
- ❖ To raise funds for a mission project of the Global Partners.

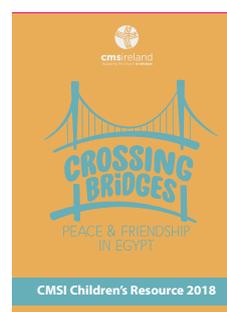
The focus of the Children's Resource changes each year – a different country, a different Global Partner, a different type of project. Recent packs have included:



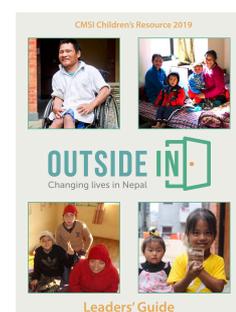
**The Meeting Place**  
2016, Uganda



**Growing in God**  
2017, Kenya



**Crossing Bridges**  
2018, Egypt



**Outside In**  
2019, Nepal

## Introducing... The In The Middle Pack

### Age-appropriate material

*In The Middle* has been designed for Sunday schools and other youth or children's groups. Material is provided for four age-groups over four sessions, but can be adapted to suit your own context. The age groups here are given as a **guide only** - there are no 'ages' on workbooks:

**Yellows:** Under-6s

**Blues:** 9-12s

**Reds:** 6-8s

**Purples:** 13+



### Leaders' Guide

This booklet contains everything you need to plan your programme, including background information and a session outline (with summary of activities) for the four age-groups. The final two pages of this Leaders' Guide include suggested material for a special **All-Age Service**.

### Activity Workbooks

Photocopiable workbooks are provided for the younger age groups. Numbers permitting, you can order pre-printed, colour workbooks. Or you can make-up your own workbooks.



### DVD

There are two parts to the DVD:

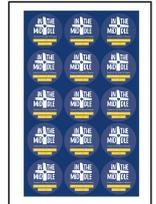
- **DVD Films:** Four short films to watch as part of each session.
- **DVD-Rom:** The DVD-Rom contains additional material, including activity templates, printable versions of the workbooks and a selection of photographs.



(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 'In The Middle 2020').

### Sticker Sheets, Pencils and Bookmarks

We'll include sticker sheets (15 per sheet) with each pack, free of charge.



You can order pencils (25p/25c each) and crocodile bookmarks, which are £1/€1 each.

### Fundraising for Burundi

There's an opportunity to raise some funds to support our partners in Burundi. Further information is provided on the following pages.

## Introducing... Burundi



**Burundi** is one of the smallest countries in Africa and is among the very poorest nations in the world. It's a land-locked country and is bordered by DR Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania and Lake Tanganyika.

Burundi lies on a rolling plateau, giving rise to an undulating landscape of hills, mountains and valleys. The country has an equatorial climate.

Burundi is one of the most densely populated countries in Africa, with the highest concentrations in the north and along the northern shore of Lake Tanganyika in the west. Most people live on farms near areas of fertile volcanic soil.

The country gained independence from Belgium in 1962 as *The Kingdom Of Burundi*, but the monarchy was overthrown in 1966 and the country became a republic.

Following independence, Burundi experienced years of civil unrest and political violence, particularly between the majority Hutus and the more powerful minority Tutsis. A civil war between 1974 and 2005 claimed hundreds of thousands of lives. Protests and unrest resurfaced in 2015 when it was announced that President Pierre Nkurunziza would seek a third term in office. Following the election and a failed coup, over 100,000 people fled the country, leading to a humanitarian crisis. Presidential Elections are planned again in May 2020.

Burundi is ranked among the world's least developed countries (based on measurements of income, life expectancy and education). About 90% of the population relies on subsistence agriculture. Food shortages, poverty, and a lack of clean water contribute to a 60% chronic malnutrition rate among children. A high birth rate, along with huge numbers of returning refugees means that Burundi's population is continuing to expand rapidly, putting additional strain on a poor country.



This is the context in which the Church in Burundi ministers. The Church is growing, as people respond to the Good News of Jesus and experience the love, hope and help that they find in local churches throughout the country.

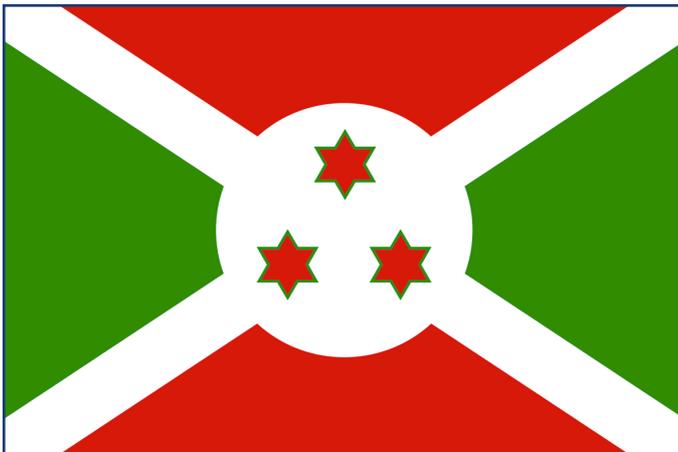
# Background information

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

## 10 Facts about Burundi

1. Gitega has been the capital city since February 2019. Before that, the capital was Bujumbura - the largest city.
2. The country's first democratically elected president was assassinated in 1993 after only 100 days in office.
3. Burundi's main exports are coffee (69 percent of total exports) and tea (26 percent).
4. In 2014, the country's president banned group jogging. It was feared that the popular Saturday morning tradition might be used by people to plan anti-government activities.
5. The highest point of Burundi is the top of Mount Heha, which is 2670m high.
6. In 1996, 5000m runner Vénuste Niyongabo became Burundi's first (and so far only) winner of an Olympic Gold Medal.
7. Meat accounts for 2% or less of the average food intake.
8. Burundi is three times smaller than Ireland - but has almost twice as many people living there.
9. The country has two official languages – French and Kirundi.
10. Cows play a significant role in the national culture. A typical Kirundi greeting, "Amashyo," translates as "May you have herds of cattle." Cattle are a symbol of health, happiness, and prosperity.

## The Flag of Burundi



The current version of the Burundi flag was adopted in September 1982.

The flag is divided into four parts by a white saltire (diagonal cross). The **white** colour of the saltire represents peace, the **green** sections represent the nation's hopes placed on future development and the **red** sections symbolise the suffering of the nation during its struggle towards freedom

The **three stars** in the centre of the flag have multiple meaning, representing:

- ◆ Burundi's three major ethnic groups: The Hutu, the Twa and the Tutsi;
- ◆ The three elements of the national motto: *Unité, Travail, Progrès* ("Unity, Work and Progress");
- ◆ The loyalty that Burundian citizens have pledged to God, king and country

## CMSI's Partners in Burundi

### Gitega Diocese

Gitega Diocese, east of Bujumbura, was created in 1985. CMSI's relationship with the diocese goes back many years – a partnership was formalised in 2003.

The diocese is led by **Bishop Aimé Joseph Kimararungu**, who became the second Bishop of Gitega in 2018.

The mission priorities of the diocese include:

- ◆ Building and refurbishing churches
- ◆ Training Church leaders
- ◆ Discipleship of new believers



### Matana Diocese

Matana Diocese, south of Bujumbura, was created in 1990 and is led today by **Bishop Seth Ndayirukiye**, who was installed as bishop in 2017.

Matana is home to the Provincial Theological Institute where students are trained for ordination, and also a Bible School for training Church Workers (called Catechists).

Matana's priorities include:

- ◆ Preaching the Word of God
- ◆ Training church leaders who will continue mission work
- ◆ Raising awareness of peace and reconciliation
- ◆ Building churches and schools



## In The Middle - The Theme

The 2020 Children's Resource theme reflects CMSI's wider annual theme for 2019/2020 - *Church At The Centre*.

In CMSI, we believe that the Church is at the centre of God's strategy to change the world. Local churches are His means of sharing the good news of Jesus, transforming lives, changing communities and restoring creation. That's why we resource and equip churches in Ireland to play a more active part in mission.

In CMSI, we believe that local churches – wherever they are – are best placed to serve their own communities. That's why we work with a network of Global Partners, who each lead, shape and deliver mission in their own context.



In CMSI, we believe that we belong to one, global, interconnected Church – a worldwide body of believers that need each other as we carry out our shared task of mission. That's why we facilitate two-way relationships between churches in Ireland and our Global Partners.

God's people at the heart of mission. Local churches in the middle of communities. The Church at the centre.



## The Youth Sessions



We have provided outlines for four Youth Sessions - primarily aimed at the 13-15 age group. These can be found towards the back of this Leaders' Guide (purple pages). Each youth session has suggested activities for a 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 'In The Middle'. There may also be activities from the Blue group that you feel are appropriate for the younger members of your youth group. You could even use the blue workbooks with your young teens.

You should use and adapt whatever material (in the Resource Pack) that you feel is most appropriate for your own teens.

## 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 children in the **Yellow Group** should submit their colouring activity from Week 4. Please remember to write in their names and age for them.
- The children in the **Red and Blue Groups** should use the page to design their posters - and add their name and age.
- The young people in the **Purple Group** can also enter the competition, by designing an A4 poster with the title 'In The Middle'. (They can also include the tagline 'Church At The Heart Of Mission'). Encourage your young people to think about what they've learned throughout the different sessions.

Entries received by **18th May** will be included in the 'competition'. The winners will be announced in our Summer Snippets news update and on the CMSI website in June. Winners will receive a small prize, which we will send via the Sunday school leaders by the end of May.

Any entries returned to our offices by the end of **October 2020** 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.

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.

## Fundraising - Supporting CMSI's Global Partners in Burundi

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

The money raised through the *In The Middle* resource will be used in support of both Gitega and Matana Dioceses in Burundi - to help them build up and equip churches at the heart of communities. In particular, funds will support:

- ◆ Resources for Sunday schools - including choir uniforms, teaching material and play resources.
- ◆ Bibles for children
- ◆ A training event for Sunday school teachers

Collection boxes are available for churches who want to encourage children and grown-ups to get involved by saving up their small change.

When sending in your donations to CMSI, be sure to include a note to say that they are for the *In The Middle* project. This will ensure that your donation is allocated to the *In The Middle* fund and will then be used in support of the programmes outlined above. Cheques should be made payable to *CMS Ireland*.

*Please note - all financial support for the mission programmes of CMSI's Global Partners includes a 10% contribution towards the costs to CMSI of processing, transferring and monitoring these funds.*

**Key lesson - God wants His people to bless others**  
**Burundi focus - Introducing Burundi**



### Group Time

Introduce the children to the *In the Middle* Children's Resource and briefly explain what they will be learning about in the coming weeks. Spend some time looking at the map of the world and point out where Burundi is. On the Burundi map, highlight the key features and show the children where Gitega and Matana Diocese are. Use the Background Information (Pages 2 & 3) to talk about Burundi.



### Workbook Activity

Complete the 'Colour the Flag' activity using the colour code.



### DVD - Film 1

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw or what differences they see between Burundi and Ireland.



### Story Time

Begin the story by talking about sand! Bring some sand to today's lesson, along with a magnifying glass so the children can see the individual grains of sand, then 20, then guess how many grains of sand fill a teaspoon, cup, bucket etc. Explain to them that today's story is about a man called Abraham. God promised Abraham that he would have so many members of his family that they would be larger in number than all the grains of sand on the seashore!

Read through today's passages: **Genesis 12: 1-5; 22:15-18** either in NIV or a children's version.

Talk about Abraham's faith to follow God's plans even when he didn't know where that would take him. Explain that God promised to use Abraham, his children and all of his family to bless the people of the world.



### Workbook Activity

Complete the 'colour the picture' activity in the yellow workbook.



### Craft Sand Stars

*Materials: coloured sand (instructions on DVD-Rom), paper, PVA glue, paintbrush, art paper, wool, scissors.*

*Instructions:*

- ★ Apply thick layer of PVA glue with paintbrush to art paper.

- ★ Use the pieces of wool to make star shapes on the page.
- ★ Fill the star shapes with the coloured sand - being as colourful as you wish.
- ★ Fill the rest of the page with contrasting coloured sand.
- ★ Allow the sand stars pictures to dry and shake off excess sand.



### Memory Verse Genesis 22:18

*"...through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed."*

Blow up 13 coloured balloons and write the words of the memory verse on each balloon, including the bible verse. Ask the children to hold up the balloons and repeat the verse a couple of times. Start by bursting/removing a balloon and repeating the verse. Keep bursting/removing words until none are left but the children can still recall the 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 Burundi Bulletin Board

*Materials: art and craft materials, large sheets of paper/ back of wallpaper, wooden lollipop sticks, Burundi flag/ maps, world map.*

Make a large display to help the children share what they are learning through the *In The Middle* resource.

This week, make stars by sticking six lollipop sticks into a star shape and decorating them with glitter. Fix them onto the mural around a world map and add Burundi information, flag and maps.

**Key lesson** - Jesus wants more people to continue with his mission  
**Burundi focus** - Introducing Gitega and Matana Diocese



**Group Time**

Today we are going to look at the Church in Burundi, introducing Gitega and Matana Dioceses. Start by asking the children what they think the church in Burundi is like? Do they sing songs? Do the children go to Sunday school? After some discussion, show them the DVD - Film 2.



**DVD - Film 2**

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw. Ask them what they noticed about Gitega and Matana Dioceses in Burundi. How is it different to your own church? Are there any similar things?



**Workbook Activity**

Complete the 'Spot the difference' activity. There are six differences in the picture of Jesus sending out his 12 disciples.



**Story Time**

Read **Matthew 9:35-10:8** (Jesus sends out the 12).

Up to this point in the story of Jesus, he had been the one who did all the teaching, preaching and healing. But he couldn't do it alone, he needed help from his disciples. He gathered together his followers and instructed them to go and help people in need.

The Church in Burundi is helping to share this message of reaching out and offering God's love to everyone.



**Game - Clumps**

The aim of this game is to make 'clumps' of small groups. Ask the children to spread out evenly around the room and listen to you carefully. Give them instructions to follow: find someone with the same colour of eyes, someone who has a birthday in the same month, who likes same ice cream flavour. Come up with a few of your own instructions.



**Craft**

**'Following Jesus' Poster.**

Use a large sheet of paper and write "Following Jesus" in the middle of the page. Get the children to make 12 pairs of footprints with coloured paint on their bare feet around the words and help them to write the disciples names on the footprints when dry.



**Memory Verse**

**Matthew 9: 37-38**

*"The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."*

Write the verse on large sheets of paper. Read the verse aloud. Have the children join in with you saying the verse in different ways, eg. fast, slow, quietly, loudly.



**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**

**Burundi Bulletin Board**

Continue to add to your Burundi Mural.

Why not print some photos from the DVD-Rom about Gitega and Matana Dioceses?

You could make a poster with the Memory Verses on it to help the children to remember what Jesus asked of his disciples.

**Key lesson** - Jesus calls his followers to share his message across the world  
**Burundi focus** - Exploring the work of Gitega and Matana Diocese



### Group Time

This week we will look at the work of the Church in Gitega and Matana Diocese in Burundi. Explain that in Burundi, there are many needs. Can the children think of any of the needs? (e.g. sickness, poverty, climate). Talk about the ways the Church can help people with these needs. Are there any needs for people in Ireland? How can the Church in Ireland help them too?



### DVD - Film 3

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw. Ask them what they learned or noticed about the programmes run by the Church in Burundi. Explain to them about the importance of resources for Sunday school and Christian education.



### Craft

#### Going Global

*Materials: A4 paper, small paper plate, blue and green tissue paper, photocopied DVD-ROM template for Jesus and Great Commission.*

- ★ Glue the plate upside down onto the page.
- ★ Use the tissue paper to create the land and sea on the plate.
- ★ Decorate the cut out Jesus figure and glue onto the globe
- ★ To finish the craft, glue the Great Commission text onto the page.



### Story Time

Read **Matthew 28:16-20** (The Great Commission).

After Jesus died and came back to life, he spent some time with his disciples, helping them to see that he really was alive and reminding them of some of the really important things he had taught them. Before returning to heaven to be with his Father, Jesus gives one final command to his followers - he tells them to go and carry out his mission throughout the world.

We, as God's Church, are part of this Great Commission, and we should be sharing this Good News with our neighbours near and far.

Challenge your class to think of creative ways that they can share this message with family and friends as well as our friends in Burundi.



### Game

#### Pin the Prayer

This game is a good way to get your children thinking about God's world and how we can pray for different parts of it. Use a large world map and put it at a good height on a wall. Help the children identify countries they know. Use a scarf as a blindfold and take turns to ask them to put a pin (or blue-tac a shape) onto the map. Help them to come up with simple prayers for the countries they have pinned.



### Workbook Activity

Colour-in the picture of God's world in the yellow workbooks.



### Memory Verse

#### Matthew 28: 19

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*

Read the verse aloud and add actions to some of the words (e.g. 'go', 'nations', 'Father', 'Son'). Ask the children to repeat the verse with you and copy your actions. You could even try 'saying' the verse without speaking!



### 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

#### Burundi Bulletin Board

Why not add your Pin the Prayer resource to your Burundi Mural and include the prayers you came up with?

Also feature some examples of your Going Global crafts you have made.

**Key lesson** - People in the Church support one another as they carry out God's mission  
**Burundi focus** - Supporting our friends in Burundi



### Group Time

Take some time to remind the children what they have been learning about over the past three weeks. Use the photos on the DVD-Rom/USB to help with this recap.

Can the children think of any ways they can be 'in the middle' of helping people in their family, community and further away in Burundi?



### Fundraising

If you haven't already done so, you could talk to your children about how to raise money for the 'In the Middle' projects in Burundi.



### DVD - Film 4

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw. Ask them how they can help the Church in Burundi as it reaches out to people to share God's love and bring people together from all parts of the community.



### Story Time

Read Acts 2:43-45 (The Church works together)

Our last story from the Bible is from the book of Acts and it gives a glimpse of how the early Church worked together and supported each other as they shared the Good News of Jesus and reached out to those in need.

After Jesus returned to heaven, God sent his Holy Spirit to empower Jesus' followers and help them to carry out His mission as his Church.



### Workbook Activity

Complete the competition on the back page of the workbook by completing the picture of your church. The children can colour the image in, draw people in the picture or add extra details.



### Memory Verse

Acts 2:44

*"All the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common."*

Write the 12 words on separate cards and hide them around your room/ hall. Ask the children to search for the cards. Once they're all found, help them to put the words in the correct order. Repeat the verse a couple of times to help them remember it.



### 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.

**Key lesson - God wants His people to bless others**  
**Burundi focus - Introducing Burundi**



### Group Time

Introduce the children to the *In the Middle* Children's Resource and briefly explain what they will be learning about in the coming weeks. Spend some time looking at the map of the world and point out where Burundi is. On the Burundi map, highlight the key features and show the children where Gitega and Matana Diocese are. Use the Background Information (Pages 2 & 3) to talk about Burundi.



### Workbook Activity

Complete the 'Country Quiz' and the 'Colour the Flag' activities using the colour code.



### DVD - Film 1

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw or what differences they see between Burundi and Ireland.



### Story Time

Begin the story by talking about sand! Bring some sand to today's lesson, along with a magnifying glass so the children can see the individual grains of sand, then 20, then guess how many grains of sand fill a teaspoon, cup, bucket etc. Explain to them that today's story is about a man called Abraham. God promised Abraham that he would have so many members of his family that they would be larger in number than all the grains of sand on the seashore!

Read through today's passages: **Genesis 12: 1-5; 22:15-18** either in NIV or a children's version.

Talk about Abraham's faith to follow God's plans even when he didn't know where that would take him. Explain that God promised to use Abraham, his children and all of his family to bless the people of the world.



### Workbook Activity

Colour the 'Abraham and the stars' picture and complete the 'Abraham and Sarah' maze.



### Craft

#### Sand Stars

*Materials: coloured sand (instructions on DVD-Rom), paper, PVA glue, paintbrush, art paper, wool, scissors.*

*Instructions:*

- ★ Apply thick layer of PVA glue with paintbrush to art paper.

- ★ Use the pieces of wool to make star shapes on the page.
- ★ Fill the star shapes with the coloured sand - being as colourful as you wish.
- ★ Fill the rest of the page with contrasting coloured sand.
- ★ Allow the sand stars pictures to dry and shake off excess sand.



### Memory Verse

**Genesis 22:18**

*"...through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed."*

Blow up 13 coloured balloons and write the words of the memory verse on each balloon, including the bible verse. Ask the children to hold up the balloons and repeat the verse a couple of times. Start by bursting/removing a balloon and repeating the verse. Keep bursting/removing words until none are left but the children can still recall the 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 workbook.



### Additional Craft

#### Burundi Bulletin Board

*Materials: art and craft materials, large sheets of paper/ back of wallpaper, wooden lollipop sticks, Burundi flag/ maps, world map.*

Make a large display to help the children share what they are learning through the *In The Middle* resource.

This week, make stars by sticking six lollipop sticks into a star shape and decorating them with glitter. Fix them onto the mural around a world map and add Burundi information, flag and maps.

**Key lesson** - Jesus wants more people to continue with his mission  
**Burundi focus** - Introducing Gitega and Matana Diocese



### Group Time

Today we are going to look at the Church in Burundi, introducing Gitega and Matana Dioceses. Start by asking the children what they think the church in Burundi is like? Do they sing songs? Do the children go to Sunday school? After some discussion, show them the DVD - Film 2.



### DVD - Film 2

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw. Ask them what they noticed about Gitega and Matana Dioceses in Burundi. How is it different to your own church? Are there any similar things?



### Workbook Activity

Complete the 'Spot the difference' activity. There are six differences in the picture of Jesus sending out his 12 disciples.



### Story Time

Read **Matthew 9:35-10:8** (Jesus sends out the 12).

Up to this point in the story of Jesus, he had been the one who did all the teaching, preaching and healing. But he couldn't do it alone, he needed help from his disciples. He gathered together his followers and instructed them to go and help people in need.

The Church in Burundi is helping to share this message of reaching out and offering God's love to everyone.



### Game - Clumps

The aim of this game is to make 'clumps' of small groups. Ask the children to spread out evenly around the room and listen to you carefully. Give them instructions to follow: find someone with the same colour of eyes, someone who has a birthday in the same month, who likes same ice cream flavour. Come up with a few of your own instructions.



### Craft

#### 'Following Jesus' Poster.

Use a large sheet of paper and write "Following Jesus" in the middle of the page. Get the children to make 12 pairs of footprints with coloured paint on their bare feet around the words and help them to write the disciples names on the footprints when dry.



### Workbook Activity

Complete the **word search** of Jesus sends out the 12. Have a go at the word mining! How many words can you make?



### Memory Verse

**Matthew 9:37-38**

*"The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."*

Write the verse on large sheets of paper. Read the verse aloud. Have the children join in with you saying the verse in different ways, eg. fast, slow, quietly, loudly.



### 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 workbook.



### Additional Craft

#### Burundi Bulletin Board

Continue to add to your Burundi Mural.

Why not print some photos from the DVD-Rom about Gitega and Matana Dioceses?

You could make a poster with the Memory Verses on it to help the children to remember what Jesus asked of his disciples.

**Key lesson** - Jesus calls his followers to share his message across the world  
**Burundi focus** - Exploring the work of Gitega and Matana Diocese



### Group Time

This week we will look at the work of the Church in Gitega and Matana Diocese in Burundi. Explain that in Burundi, there are many needs. Can the children think of any of the needs? (e.g. sickness, poverty, climate). Talk about the ways the Church can help people with these needs. Are there any needs for people in Ireland? How can the Church in Ireland help them too?



### Workbook Activity

Colour-in the picture of *God's world* in the red workbooks.



### DVD - Film 3

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw. Ask them what they learned or noticed about the programmes run by the Church in Burundi. Explain to them about the importance of resources for Sunday school and Christian education.



### Craft

#### Going Global

*Materials: A4 paper, small paper plate, blue and green tissue paper, photocopied DVD-ROM template for Jesus and Great Commission.*

- ★ Glue the plate upside down onto the page.
- ★ Use the tissue paper to create the land and sea on the plate.
- ★ Decorate the cut out Jesus figure and glue onto the globe
- ★ To finish the craft, glue the Great Commission text onto the page.



### Story Time

Read **Matthew 28:16-20** (The Great Commission).

After Jesus died and came back to life, he spent some time with his disciples, helping them to see that he really was alive and reminding them of some of the really important things he had taught them. Before returning to heaven to be with his Father, Jesus gives one final command to his followers - he tells them to go and carry out his mission throughout the world.

We, as God's Church, are part of this Great Commission, and we should be sharing this Good News with our neighbours near and far.

Challenge your class to think of creative ways that they can share this message with family and friends as well as our friends in Burundi.



### Game

#### Pin the Prayer

This game is a good way to get your children thinking about God's world and how we can pray for different parts of it. Use a large world map and put it at a good height on a wall. Help the children identify countries they know. Use a scarf as a blindfold and take turns to ask them to put a pin (or blue-tac a shape) onto the map. Help them to come up with simple prayers for the countries they have pinned.



### Workbook Activity

Have a go at the *Codebreaker* to find the names of 5 countries that have many needs. Can they draw a picture or write how we can help these countries?



### Memory Verse

#### Matthew 28: 19

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*

Read the verse aloud and add actions to some of the words (e.g. 'go', 'nations', 'Father', 'Son'). Ask the children to repeat the verse with you and copy your actions. You could even try 'saying' the verse without speaking!



### 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 workbooks.



### Additional Craft

#### Burundi Bulletin Board

Why not add your Pin the Prayer resource to your Burundi Mural and include the prayers you came up with?

Also feature some examples of your Going Global crafts you have made.

**Key lesson** - People in the Church support one another as they carry out God's mission  
**Burundi focus** - Supporting our friends in Burundi



**Group Time**

Take some time to remind the children what they have been learning about over the past three weeks. Use the photos on the DVD-Rom/USB to help with this recap.

Can the children think of any ways they can be 'in the middle' of helping people in their family, community and further away in Burundi?



**Fundraising**

If you haven't already done so, you could talk to your children about how to raise money for the 'In the Middle' projects in Burundi.



**DVD - Film 4**

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw. Ask them how they can help the Church in Burundi as it reaches out to people to share God's love and bring people together from all parts of the community.



**Workbook Activity**

Colour in the picture of *The Early Church*, then draw a picture of your church.



**Story Time**

Read **Acts 2:43-45** (The Church works together)

Our last story from the Bible is from the book of Acts and it gives a glimpse of how the early Church worked together and supported each other as they shared the Good News of Jesus and reached out to those in need.

After Jesus returned to heaven, God sent his Holy Spirit to empower Jesus' followers and help them to carry out His mission as his Church.



**Workbook Activity**

Complete the *Burundi Poem* activity by making up a poem using the letters from the word BURUNDI.

Complete the *Competition* on the back page of the workbook by drawing a picture for the Sunday school children in Burundi.

*(Don't forget to put a name on the competition page and return them to CMSI by the 18th May 2020 to be included in our competition and receive a certificate. Entries after that date will still receive a certificate but won't be part of the competition.)*



**Memory Verse**

**Acts 2:44**

*"All the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common."*

Write the 12 words on separate cards and hide them around your room/ hall. Ask the children to search for the cards. Once they're all found, help them to put the words in the correct order. Repeat the verse a couple of times to help them remember it.



**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 workbooks.

## Key lesson - God wants His people to bless others

### Burundi focus - Introducing Burundi



#### Group Time

Introduce the children to the *In the Middle* Children's Resource and briefly explain what they will be learning about in the coming weeks. Spend some time looking at the map of the world and point out where Burundi is. On the Burundi map, highlight the key features and show the children where Gitega and Matana Diocese are. Use the Background Information (Pages 2 & 3) to talk about Burundi.



#### Workbook Activity

Complete the 'What do we know about Burundi?' activity and the 'Colour the Flag' activity using the colour code.



#### DVD - Film 1

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw or what differences they see between Burundi and Ireland.



#### Story Time

Begin the story by talking about sand! Bring some sand to today's lesson, along with a magnifying glass so the children can see the individual grains of sand. Ask the children to count out 10 grains of sand, then 20, then guess how many grains of sand fill a teaspoon, cup, bucket etc. Explain to them that today's story is about a man called Abraham. God promised Abraham that he would have so many members of his family that they would be larger in number than all the grains of sand on the seashore!

Read through today's passages: **Genesis 12: 1-5; 22:15-18** either in NIV or a children's version.

Talk about Abraham's faith to follow God's plans even when he didn't know where that would take him. Explain that God promised to use Abraham, his children and all of his family to bless the people of the world.



#### Workbook Activity

Colour the 'colour the picture' activity, the 'Abraham and Sarah' maze and the 'Abraham Word Search.'



#### Craft Activity Sand Stars

*Materials: coloured sand (instructions on DVD-Rom), paper, PVA glue, paintbrush, art paper, wool, scissors.*

*Instructions:*

- ★ Apply thick layer of PVA glue with paintbrush to art paper.

- ★ Use the pieces of wool to make star shapes on the page.
- ★ Fill the star shapes with the coloured sand - being as colourful as you wish.
- ★ Fill the rest of the page with contrasting coloured sand.
- ★ Allow the sand stars pictures to dry and shake off excess sand.



#### Memory Verse

**Genesis 22:18**

*"...through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed."*

Blow up 13 coloured balloons and write the words of the memory verse on each balloon, including the bible verse. Ask the children to hold up the balloons and repeat the verse a couple of times. Start by bursting/removing a balloon and repeating the verse. Keep bursting/removing words until none are left but the children can still recall the 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 blue workbook.



#### Additional Craft

**Burundi Bulletin Board**

*Materials: art and craft materials, large sheets of paper/back of wallpaper, wooden lollipop sticks, Burundi flag/maps, world map.*

Make a large display to help the children share what they are learning through the *In The Middle* resource.

This week, make stars by sticking six lollipop sticks into a star shape and decorating them with glitter. Fix them onto the mural around a world map and add Burundi information, flag and maps.

**Key lesson** - Jesus wants more people to continue with his mission  
**Burundi focus** - Introducing Gitega and Matana Diocese



**Group Time**

Today we are going to look at the Church in Burundi, introducing Gitega and Matana Dioceses. Start by asking the children what they think the church in Burundi is like? Do they sing songs? Do the children go to Sunday school? After some discussion, show them the DVD - Film 2.



**DVD - Film 2**

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw. Ask them what they noticed about Gitega and Matana Dioceses in Burundi. How is it different to your own church? Are there any similar things?



**Story Time**

Read **Matthew 9:35-10:8** (Jesus sends out the 12).

Up to this point in the story of Jesus, he had been the one who did all the teaching, preaching and healing. But he couldn't do it alone, he needed help from his disciples. He gathered together his followers and instructed them to go and help people in need.

The Church in Burundi is helping to share this message of reaching out and offering God's love to everyone.



**Workbook activity**

Ask the children to come up with a news story using the words in the box to help them. Can they draw a picture to go along with the story of Jesus sending his 12 disciples?



**Game - Clumps**

The aim of this game is to make 'clumps' of small groups. Ask the children to spread out evenly around the room and listen to you carefully. Give them instructions to follow: find someone with the same colour of eyes, someone who has a birthday in the same month, who likes same ice cream flavour. Come up with a few of your own instructions.



**Craft: - 'Following Jesus' poster.**

Use a large sheet of paper and write "Following Jesus" in the middle of the page. Get the children to make 12 pairs of footprints with coloured paint on their bare feet around the words and help them to write the disciples names on the footprints when dry.



**Workbook activity**

Complete the word search activity and see how many words they can find in the word mining exercise.



**Memory Verse**

**Matthew 9:37-38**

*"The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."*

Write the verse on large sheets of paper. Read the verse aloud. Have the children join in with you saying the verse in different ways, eg. fast, slow, quietly, loudly.



**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 blue workbook.



**Additional Craft**

**Burundi Bulletin Board**

Continue to add to your Burundi Mural.

Why not print some photos from the DVD-Rom about Gitega and Matana Dioceses?

You could make a poster with the Memory Verses on it to help the children to remember what Jesus asked of his disciples.

**Key lesson** - Jesus calls his followers to share his message across the world  
**Burundi focus** - Exploring the work of Gitega and Matana Diocese



**Group Time**

This week we will look at the work of the Church in Gitega and Matana Diocese in Burundi. Explain that in Burundi, there are many needs. Can the children think of any of the needs? (e.g. sickness, poverty, climate). Talk about the ways the Church can help people with these needs. Are there any needs for people in Ireland? How can the Church in Ireland help them too?



**Workbook Activity**

Complete the *Great Commission Crossword* and the *Colour The World* picture.



**DVD - Film 3**

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw. Ask them what they learned or noticed about the programmes run by the Church in Burundi. Explain to them about the importance of resources for Sunday school and Christian education.



**Craft**

**Going Global**

*Materials: A4 paper, small paper plate, blue and green tissue paper, photocopied DVD-ROM template for Jesus and Great Commission.*

- ★ Glue the plate upside down onto the page.
- ★ Use the tissue paper to create the land and sea on the plate.
- ★ Decorate the cut out Jesus figure and glue onto the globe
- ★ To finish the craft, glue the Great Commission text onto the page.



**Story Time**

Read **Matthew 28:16-20** (The Great Commission).

After Jesus died and came back to life, he spent some time with his disciples, helping them to see that he really was alive and reminding them of some of the really important things he had taught them. Before returning to heaven to be with his Father, Jesus gives one final command to his followers - he tells them to go and carry out his mission throughout the world.

We, as God's Church, are part of this Great Commission, and we should be sharing this Good News with our neighbours near and far.

Challenge your class to think of creative ways that they can share this message with family and friends as well as our friends in Burundi.



**Game**

**Pin the Prayer**

This game is a good way to get your children thinking about God's world and how we can pray for different parts of it. Use a large world map and put it at a good height on a wall. Help the children identify countries they know. Use a scarf as a blindfold and take turns to ask them to put a pin (or blue-tac a shape) onto the map. Help them to come up with simple prayers for the countries they have pinned.



**Workbook Activity**

Have a go at the *Codebreaker* to find the names of 5 countries that have many needs. Can you set your own codes? Add a few sentences or draw a picture to show how we can help these countries.



**Memory Verse**

**Matthew 28: 19**

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*

Read the verse aloud and add actions to some of the words (e.g. 'go', 'nations', 'Father', 'Son'). Ask the children to repeat the verse with you and copy your actions. You could even try 'saying' the verse without speaking!



**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 blue workbooks.



**Additional Craft**

**Burundi Bulletin Board**

Why not add your Pin the Prayer resource to your Burundi Mural and include the prayers you came up with?

Also feature some examples of your Going Global crafts you have made.

**Key lesson** - People in the Church support one another as they carry out God's mission  
**Burundi focus** - Supporting our friends in Burundi



**Group Time**

Take some time to remind the children what they have been learning about over the past three weeks. Use the photos on the DVD-Rom/USB to help with this recap.

Can the children think of any ways they can be 'in the middle' of helping people in their family, community and further away in Burundi?



**Fundraising**

If you haven't already done so, you could talk to your children about how to raise money for the 'In the Middle' projects in Burundi.



**DVD - Film 4**

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw. Ask them how they can help the Church in Burundi as it reaches out to people to share God's love and bring people together from all parts of the community.



**Workbook Activity**

Come up with your own colour code and use it to complete the picture of *The Early Church Church*, then draw a picture of your own church.



**Story Time**

Read Acts 2:43-45 (The Church works together)

Our last story from the Bible is from the book of Acts and it gives a glimpse of how the early Church worked together and supported each other as they shared the Good News of Jesus and reached out to those in need.

After Jesus returned to heaven, God sent his Holy Spirit to empower Jesus' followers and help them to carry out His mission as his Church.



**Workbook Activity**

Complete the *Burundi Poem* activity by making up a poem using the letters from the word BURUNDI.

Complete the *Competition* on the back page of the workbook by drawing a picture for the Sunday school children in Burundi.

*(Don't forget to put a name on the competition page and return them to CMSI by the 18th May 2020 to be included in our competition and receive a certificate. Entries after that date will still receive a certificate but won't be part of the competition.)*



**Memory Verse**

Acts 2:44

*"All the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common."*

Write the 12 words on separate cards and hide them around your room/ hall. Ask the children to search for the cards. Once they're all found, help them to put the words in the correct order. Repeat the verse a couple of times to help them remember it.



**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 blue workbooks.

**Key lesson - God's mission plan involves His people being a blessing to others**  
**Burundi focus - Learning about Burundi**

**Prep for the session**

For 'Transforming Relays', you'll need a few sets of 'clothes' for the relay - one set for each relay team (eg Big jumper, big coat, big over-trousers or tracksuit bottoms, hat, gloves, earmuffs, wellies etc)

For 'Banana Surgery', you'll need a few bananas (not too ripe) - one for each small team - along with things that can be used to fix or join: tape, elastic bands, string, pins.

For the Bible reading, try to use a version other than the Good News Translation, such as the NIV or NLT. It will help with the key verse (Gen 22:18).

-----



**Getting started [5+ mins]**

**Transforming Relays**

Divide the group into teams (two, three or four teams, depending on numbers) for some relay races. Each race will have a 'transforming' theme to it. Start with simple ones - run down, hop back; crab down, crawl back. Then do the clothes relay...

A set of clothes is set at the end of the room for each team (same items in each set). First person runs down, puts on first item and runs back to their team, takes off item. Next person puts that item on, runs down, adds the second item, then returns to team and takes both items off, passing them on to the third person...and so on. Keep going until the last person is fully dressed. You can extend the race (or run it as a second race), by doing it all in reverse - taking off an item each time.

Introduce the session and talk about the transformation that can take place when God's people bless others.



**Opening it up [10+ mins]**

**Banana Surgery**

This can either be played in teams, or if you have a smaller group, you can have everyone play together.

Give each team a banana on a plate or tray, which they should peel and cut into equal parts. (Don't tell them what comes next until they're done cutting.)

Then tell them they must put the banana back together using pins, needles, tape, or whatever. The team with the best reconstructed banana wins. Give them a time limit (maybe 5 minutes)?

Highlight the fact that it's not always easy to transform things and put them back together. Today's Bible story is about God's plan to put things back together in the world.



**Bible Bit [10+ mins]**

In the opening chapters of Genesis - the first book in the Bible - we learn that God created everything and that it was all good. But we then read how selfishness and sin entered the picture and made a mess of

everything. In today's story, we see the beginnings of God's big mission project to make things right again.

**Read Genesis 12:1-5**

- ❖ How does the story - God's big plan - begin? What seems to be the strategy?
- ❖ Why might this seem like a strange strategy?
- ❖ How many times do you see the word *bless* or *blessing* in these verses? Why do you think this word appears so often? How do we bless someone?
- ❖ How does Abram respond to God's call?

**Read Genesis 22:15-18** (read from v1 if you have time)

In this chapter, God tests Abraham by asking him to sacrifice his only son - but God intervenes at the last minute and provides another way. God then makes some promises to Abraham.

- ❖ What promises does God make to Abraham?
- ❖ Which people will be blessed and who will do the blessing?
- ❖ Why might verse 18 be relevant for us today?



**Film [10 mins]**

Show **Film 1**, which introduces us to Burundi. Afterwards, chat about what you saw and the ways in which Burundi - and life there - is different from Ireland. Are there any similarities?



**Pulling it together [10+ mins]**

**Flag It Up**

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

**Part 2:** If you have time, use the facts about Burundi on Page 3 of this Leaders' Guide as the basis for a double-choice quiz. You may need to make up some 'false' facts as alternatives to the real facts.

e.g. *The highest mountain in Burundi is Mt Ho-Ho.*  
 or *The highest mountain in Burundi is Mt Heha.*

Ask the young people to line up across the middle of the room. For each question/option, those who give a correct answer should take two steps forward, those who answer incorrectly should take one step back. Keep going for all 10 facts, or until one or more young people have reached the winning line.



**Prayer Time**

Finish the session by thanking God for His mission plan and for the fact that He has invited us to be part of this plan. Pray for the young people - that they would be a blessing to others. Pray too for the country of Burundi.

**Key lesson** - Jesus saw the need for more people to be involved in his work of mission  
**Burundi focus** - Introducing Gitega Diocese and Matana Diocese

**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.

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.

For the prayer time, you can use a marker with a flip chart or one of your large pieces of paper/card.

-----



**Getting started** [5+ mins]

**Community Clumps**

The young people run (or 'mill') around the room until you shout a number or blow a whistle a number of times. They need to quickly get into groups comprising that number of people. Those not in a group get eliminated each round.

Today, we'll be thinking about the Church as a community of people who follow Jesus.



**Opening it up** [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).

Have a brief chat about their experience of mirroring and introduce the idea of discipleship - as learning to 'mirror' Jesus. What's the key to good mirroring?



**Bible Bit** [10+ mins]

Jesus is the focal point of God's big rescue plan. The Gospel stories help us learn more about Jesus' mission. In today's story, we see how Jesus begins to get other people involved.

**Read Matthew 9:35-10:8**

- ❖ What sorts of things was Jesus doing as he travelled around the towns and villages?
- ❖ Why do you think so many people tried to see him?
- ❖ Why is Jesus concerned about the crowds? (v36)
- ❖ What problem or 'need' does Jesus share with his disciples? (v37)
- ❖ How does he suggest the disciples respond?
- ❖ What happens in Chapter 10? Summarise the story.
- ❖ What sort of things does Jesus tell his disciples to do? What do you notice about these things (think of what you read in Chapter 9)?

- ❖ How does the story in Chapter 10 link with the problem/need that Jesus identified in Chapter 9?
- ❖ What do we learn from these stories about God's big mission plan?



**Film** [10 mins]

Show **Film 2**, which introduces us to the Church in Burundi. Afterwards, chat about some of the challenges facing the Church in Burundi and about some of the things that the Church is doing.



**Pulling it together** [15+ mins]

**Our World Poster**

Ask the young people to come up with ideas for a poster that describes their/our world and identifies the sorts of needs that people might have. They can keep the focus closer to home and think about their own day-to-day experiences, or the posters can have a wider, global perspective. 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 magazines or newspapers). If you have lots of young people, you could split them into two or three groups, with each group working on a poster.

After (or during) the poster-making, have a brief discussion about comparing the needs here in Ireland with the needs in Burundi. Which needs might be different? What needs might be similar?



**Prayer Time**

**Praying For Our World**

Ask the young people to look at the 'Our World Poster(s)' and suggest things that they can pray for. As they make suggestions, you could write them on a big bit of paper or card - or on a flip chart.

Once you have a list, you can either ask everyone to pray out loud for one of the items on the list, or you can ask each young person in turn to pick one of the prayer points, pray silently for it, then come and tick that item off the list.

**Key lesson - Jesus' mission became the Church's mission... and it was to go global**  
**Burundi focus - Finding out more about the work of Gitega and Matana Dioceses**

**Prep for the session**

For the opening 'Connected' activity, you'll need a ball of string or wool.

For 'Clay Creations', you'll need some 'Playdoh' or other modelling clay.

For the Great Genie Lamp Rub and Prayer Time, you'll need post-it notes and pens.



**Getting started [5+ mins]**

**Connected**

Ask the young people to stand in a circle. Give one of them the ball of string/wool and get them to say their name and one thing that helps describe them (funny, lazy, clever, quiet, sporty, friendly etc).

Then they should keep hold of one end of the string and throw the ball to someone else in the circle, who does the same thing. Keep going until everyone is connected. Make the point that we all belong in God's family and we all have a part to play in His big plan.



**Opening it up [10+ mins]**

**Clay Creations**

Divide the young people into groups of three or four, with each group sitting round a table. If your numbers are low, one group is fine. Give a lump of Playdoh or modelling clay to one person in each group - they're the 'starters'. When you say "GO", the starters begin to create an object - any object they like. But they can't chat about what they're making.

When you shout "Change", the starters pass their creation to the left and the next person in the group continues to shape the clay. They can continue to make the object they think the starter was working on - or they can adapt it to a new object.

Continue this until everyone has had at least one go at shaping the clay (some people may get two goes). At the end, get each group to show their creation and ask them to share how their object developed.

Today, we're going to think about how God's mission project has been passed on from person to person and generation to generation.



**Bible Bit [10+ mins]**

*Following Jesus' ministry, which lasted about three years, he is betrayed, arrested, tried and executed in Jerusalem. Jesus' death is the key part of God's big plan - the most important event in all of history. It's because of his death that we can be part of God's family. Today's story takes place just after Jesus died.*

**Read Matthew 28:1-10;16-20**

- ❖ Have a short discussion about how these three groups of people might have felt as the events unfolded in these two passages:
  - ▶ The guards
  - ▶ The women
  - ▶ The disciples

- ❖ Why do you think it is so significant that Jesus came back to life after he was crucified?
- ❖ What things does Jesus command his disciples to do?
- ❖ This isn't the first time that Jesus sends out his followers in mission (see Matthew 10 passage from Week 2), but in what ways is this 'sending out' different? (*Think about what's new - and big - in the message they will share. And think about where they are asked to go.*)
- ❖ What help does Jesus offer for this task?
- ❖ What do we learn from these stories about God's big mission plan for His people today?



**Film [10 mins]**

Show **Film 3**, which helps us learn more about Gitega Diocese and Matana Dioceses - CMSI's two Global Partners in Burundi.



**Pulling it together [5+ mins]**

**The Great Genie Lamp Rub**

Give out pens and three post-it notes to each young person. Ask them 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 what 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 50 years? Would anyone change their wishes based on the discussion?

What do you think God's greatest hope is for the world? And what role do you think He wants the Church to play in this?

What do you think the priorities are for the Church in Burundi?



**Prayer Time**

**Post-it Prayer Wall**

Think about some of the people in Burundi - or closer to home - who might need help from God and from the Church. Ask the young people to use post-it notes to write down some of the groups of people (eg children, people who are sick, refugees) - or some of the needs (food, friendship, medical help).

After a few minutes, invite the young people to offer their prayers to God by sticking their post-it notes on a wall (you might want to play some music as they do this). Finish the session by asking God to bless these people and help to meet their needs.

**Key lesson - God's people need to share together and support each other in mission.**  
**Burundi focus - Helping our partners keep Church at the heart of mission.**

**Prep for the session**

For the 'Sherlock' game, you'll need some items that can be used to quickly change the appearance of the young people: scarves, hats, sunglasses, pencils (for putting behind ears) etc.

For the In The Middle Posters, you'll need paper and felt-tip pens or colouring pencils.

For the Prayer Time, print off the prayer prompts from the DVD-Rom or USB - or write your own prompts (Burundi, Gitega Diocese, Matana Diocese etc)

-----



**Getting started [5+ mins]**

**Back-To-Back**

Begin with two young people sitting on the floor, back-to-back with arms linked. They have to stand up without their hands or arms touching the floor. If they're successful, add another person and try again. Have a few goes and see how many people you can do this with.

Explain that today, we're going to think about how God uses His people to support, help and bless each other.



**Opening it up [10+ mins]**

**Sherlock**

Divide your group into two teams — or if your group is smaller, pick someone to be "detective."

Line up the two groups facing each other (or one group and the detective), and give them 10 to 30 seconds to observe each other. The detective/second group leaves the room and the first group changes 10 things about their appearance that are somewhat obvious. Provide items to help with the transformation.

Once the detective/second group returns, give them a set amount of time to try to observe the 10 changes and name them (if it's one person) or write them down (if it's a group).

Make the point that sometimes, we have to look closely and carefully at things to see people's needs or to see how God is at work in their lives.

In today's Bible passage, look out for some of the ways in which Jesus' followers were transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.



**Bible Bit [10+ mins]**

*After Jesus gave his final commandment to his disciples and returned to heaven, the disciples returned to Jerusalem. Ten days later, on the Day Of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples to empower them for their task. Peter preached a public sermon that had a huge impact... and the Church was born!*

**Read Acts 2:22-24; 36-47**

- ❖ Ask if anyone knows why it's so significant that Peter is the one to speak out so clearly and boldly? (You may need to prompt re Peter's denial etc.)
- ❖ What do you think has made the difference to Peter?
- ❖ Ask the young people to summarise the main points that Peter makes in his sermon.
- ❖ What is the outcome of this sermon?
- ❖ What things characterise the life of the Early Church (v36-47)?
- ❖ Why do you think it was so important that these first Christians shared together and helped each other?
- ❖ What can we learn from this passage as part of the Church in the 21st Century?



**Film [10+ mins]**

Show **Film 4**, which highlights some of the ways in which your group can support CMSI's partners in Burundi. Have a brief discussion about ways in which your group could encourage and support Gitega and Matana Dioceses.



**Pulling it together [15+ mins]**

**In The Middle Posters (Competition option)**

Ask the young people to reflect on the *In The Middle* sessions and think about something that they've learned or been challenged by - it could be about Burundi 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.



**Prayer Time**

**In The Middle Prayers**

Ask the young people to make a circle. Place your prayer prompts on the floor, either one by one, or all together. Spend some time praying for the things (either out loud or silently) in the middle of the circle.

You can then invite leaders and young people to step into the middle of the circle, one at a time, so that everyone can pray for them or for something they mention. If you (as the leader) begin by stepping in to the middle and sharing something simple, it may help encourage the young people to have a go.



Church At The Heart Of Mission

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 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 this year's resource - which uses stories from the Bible and from the Church in Burundi to show how God's people are at the centre of His strategy to change the world.

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

### Film Clips

If you're able to show videos in your church, why not use one or more of the films from the *In The Middle* DVD or USB memory stick, to introduce folk to the Church in Burundi. The films are short, and can easily be included at any point of the service.

### Bidding

Brothers and sisters in Christ,  
we meet today to worship our wonderful God,  
to sing His praise, to hear His word  
and to come before Him in prayer.  
In particular, we will pray for the people of Burundi.  
We will ask God to bless the work of CMSI  
and its Global Partners in that country -  
Gitega and Matana Dioceses -  
as we learn more about their work.  
We will think especially of the Church's role  
at the heart of communities  
and at the centre of mission.

Let us worship the Lord.  
**All praise to his name.**

### Prayers and Acclamations

#### Penitence

(From Common Worship: Festivals)

Jesus said to the apostles:  
'Go and make disciples of all the nations.'  
Conscious of our failure to obey his commands, let us  
call to mind our sins.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the  
peace of God's kingdom:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen  
us in holiness:

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You will come in glory with salvation for your people:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

OR

*The minister invites the congregation to stand, and turn to face the back of the Church (which is often the West End) and introduces the penitence with these words:*

God calls us all to share in His mission;  
Jesus tells his Church to go into all the world;  
the Spirit of God convicts us,  
and we know we often fail in this call.

As we are turned towards what is behind us,  
we ask for God's patience and forgiveness  
as we recall our failings:  
**Lord, forgive and help us.**

We ask for God's help, that we may change our lives  
and use them to respond to His call:  
**Lord, forgive and help us.**

We ask for God's power, to equip for the work of mission:  
**Lord, forgive and help us.**

*The minister invites the congregation to turn again to face the front, and uses this form of Absolution. Words in italics can be changed from 'you' to 'us' if the service is led by a deacon or lay leader:*

May the God of new beginnings,  
towards whom we have turned,  
bring *you* forgiveness through the power of His Son,  
and grant *you* power to live for the future in accordance  
with His will. **Amen.**

#### Acclamations

Jesus said:  
*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."*  
**When they saw him they worshipped him.**

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations."*  
**Baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.**

*"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*  
**When they saw him they worshipped him.**

#### Intercessions

Father God, You were faithful in Your promises to Abraham  
and You are faithful in Your promises to us.  
Help us to follow Abraham's example  
of faithfulness and dedication;  
equip Your Church around the world to remain steadfast,  
and bless especially CMSI's partners in Matana and Gitega.

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, you chose and called many to the work of mission.  
We thank you for the people you continue to call to that work  
in these days.

Bless them, and raise up even from this Church and congregation,  
those who will be bold to answer the call to mission.  
Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit, you call every member of your Church to bless one another and to witness to your goodness.  
Show us the way we can respond to this call in our own lives,  
and give us grace to do the things you show us.

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

**Merciful Father, hear our prayers in the name of the one who has shown us the way of grace and truth. Amen.**

### **Blessing**

*May the God of transformation, who Has called His people to share His message of love and grace, draw you close and equip you for our shared work of mission.*

*And the blessing of God Almighty,  
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
be with you now and always.*

**Amen.**

### **Interactive Prayer Activity**

*If you have room, why not use a table or noticeboard to make a 'scrabble board' with the names of your congregation. You could invite each person (or just children if that is more practical) to come forward while music is played/a hymn is sung. Invite them to put their name on the board/table with scrabble tiles. Encourage them to think of a way they can respond to God's call to mission, and to make that their prayer as they put their name on the board/table. Songs like 'I will offer up my life in Spirit and truth' or 'I the Lord of Seas and sky' would work particularly well.*

*You can buy wooden scrabble tiles for craft inexpensively online.*

*A noticeboard is more visually arresting, but you will need to think of a way to stick the tiles on the board – if you use glue, they are not so easily reused!*

### **Bible Readings**

Any of the stories that feature in the material for the children and young people could be used in the service. Each story highlights the fact that God has chosen *His* people as the means of carrying out *His* mission. The story of Jesus sending out the 12 disciples (**Matthew 10:1-8**) or the Great Commission (**Matthew 28:16-20**) might work particularly well.

### **Possible Song/Hymn Ideas**

Suggested Hymns and Songs from that might be appropriate.

#### **From the Church Hymnal:**

- 129 *How lovely on the mountains are the feet*
- 330 *God is here! As we His people*
- 478 *Go forth and tell!*
- 490 *The Spirit lives to set us free (walk in the light)*

- 494 *Beauty for Brokenness*
- 499 *When I needed a neighbour, were you there?*
- 500 *Would you walk by on the other side?*
- 514 *We cannot measure how you heal*
- 515 *A new commandment*
- 517 *Brother, sister, let me serve you*
- 663 *We are marching in the light of God*
- 712 *Tell out my soul*

#### **From Thanks and Praise:**

- 10 *Be bold, be strong*
- 24 *Clap your hands all you nations*
- 28 *Come, thou fount of every blessing*
- 34 *Far and near, hear the call*
- 88 *Longing for light we wait in darkness*
- 120 *Praise the One who breaks the darkness*
- 121 *Pray for the Church afflicted and oppressed*
- 146 *The kingdom of God is justice and joy*
- 150 *There is a higher throne*

### **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 some of the themes in the *In The Middle* resource.
- ★ 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 *In The Middle*. 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. (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.

We'd love to see more parishes developing a partnership link with Gitega Diocese or Matana Diocese - or indeed with any of CMSI's other Global Partners. These links are a really effective way to connect with the global Church and to play an active part in global mission. They also provide a means of breathing new life into the mission activities within your own parish.

For further information, contact CMSI's offices or visit our website - [www.cmsireland.org](http://www.cmsireland.org).

We want to say a big **Thank You** to the many Sunday school teachers, children's workers and youth leaders who take the material in the CMSI Children's Resource each year and make it come alive for their young people. We really value your commitment to helping children explore the story of mission. You are helping to keep the Church at the heart of mission!

# Map of Burundi

