



CHURCH
PARTNERSHIP
SCHEME

Children's groups and Burkina Faso

Ideas for teaching your youth and children's groups about the church's partnership with Christian Aid

The partnership your church has with Christian Aid is very important to us and something that we believe can be shared with the whole church family. Below is a list of ideas and activities to teach children about Burkina Faso and the project we are supporting. It could be used in your children's groups on a Sunday or during mid-week clubs such as Brownies and Cubs. You can pick and mix the activities that best suit you or use them all together to create a 45-minute session.

Where in the world? (10 minutes)

The Early Learning Centre's Globe Trotter's game is a fun way of introducing children to different parts of the world. It's like Twister but using a world map. If you have access to a copy of the game, play this and then use the map to show children where Burkina Faso is. Alternatively, complete a world-map jigsaw together or use a globe or an atlas to point the country out.

After looking at where Burkina Faso is, ask the children what they think the country might be like. Why do they think that? Source pictures of Burkina Faso in books and on the internet and talk to the children about what it might be like to live there. Write facts that you find out on pieces of paper or sticky notes.

Meet Maurice (5 minutes)

Use the sheet below to introduce the group to fourteen-year-old Maurice Bayili from Burkina Faso and talk about how he has been helped by Christian Aid. Explain how your church is helping to fund the project in Burkina Faso.

Hand out postcards to the children. What would they say or write to Maurice if they could? What would they like to ask him?

Whatever the weather (10 minutes)

Talk to the children about why they think the weather might be changing in Burkina Faso. Play Christian Aid's Water Game (available from us at the address below), which look at water and climate change issues around the world.

Comparing lives activity (5 minutes)

In what ways are the children's and Maurice's life the same and in what way are they different? As you read out these sentences about Maurice's life, the children should stand up if their life is different and sit down if it's the same.

Maurice is 14 years old.

Maurice lives in a village.

Maurice is a shepherd.

Maurice likes watching films.

Maurice lives with his cousins.

There's not much rain where Maurice lives.

What did Jesus say? (5 minutes)

Read a children's version of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10 v 25-37) or watch a cartoon version of it. Christian Aid wants to see a world without poverty and believes that we should help those in need in poor areas of the world. Jesus says in this passage that we should help our neighbours. Who are our neighbours? How can we help them?

Craft and planning time (10 minutes)

Create large poster with Burkina Faso in the middle. (You can find a map to print out on the internet.) Add the facts about the country that you collected earlier. Stick a copy of the picture of Maurice on the poster and add the children's postcards. Spend some time discussing how your group could help with your church's partnership – maybe you could commit to praying for Christian Aid, the project in Burkina Faso and Maurice each week or you could plan a fund-raising activity to contribute towards it. Write the children's ideas on a board or paper and then as a group decide what you are going to do. The children then add pictures of themselves to the poster, along with details of how your group plans to be involved.

Prayer activity (5 minutes)

Give the children water-shaped pieces of paper to write or draw prayers on. When they have finished, they can drop their prayer into a 'well' (bucket, container, etc). Close the session with a prayer. Then enjoy a glass of water together.

Add your prayers to the poster at the end of the session.

If you have any enquiries please email Kat Birch at kbirch@christian-aid.org or phone 020 7523 2015.
www.christianaid.org.uk/churchpartnerships

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Meet Maurice



Christian Aid/Sarah Filbey

Fact file

Name:	Maurice Bayili
Age:	14
Lives:	Zongou, Burkina Faso
Family:	Maurice lives with his uncle, aunt and cousins
School:	Maurice doesn't go to school. He is a shepherd and spends the day looking for good places for his sheep, goats and cows to find food.
Likes:	listening to the radio and watching films (which are sometimes shown in the village square where he lives)

The weather is changing where Maurice lives. It used to flood there during the rainy season but over the past few years it has rained less and less. This has caused big problems for the people who live in Zongou because many of them are farmers and they need the rain to grow their crops.

However, Christian Aid is giving money to an project in Burkina Faso that has been helping people in Zongou by teaching the farmers new ways of farming and helping villagers to build dams and water pumps so that they can have water. Your church, together with Christian Aid, is helping to fund this work and helping Maurice and his family to have a better life.