

## COMPASSION SUNDAY: IT BEGINS WITH A CHILD...



## ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

Here are some ideas that will raise awareness, and participation to help make Compassion Sunday an event to remember for children in your Sunday School classes.

### A PROBLEM SHARED

Depending on the size of your children's group set up tables and chairs to seat 3 or 6 children. Set paper plates and plastic cups for each place.

Then, set two-thirds of the places with candy, drinks, snacks. The other third remains empty.

Invite the children to sit at the tables. As they realise only 2/3 of the places are set with food, tell them that they have to decide what to do about it. It's up to them how they go about eating the treats. Get them to feed back on what they did to solve the problem. For example, an entire table may have got together and shared all the food. Or, one or two individuals may have shared. Perhaps no one did and some missed out completely.

Explain that this is the situation faced every day by the world's poor children, where 20% of the world's population have 80% of the resources. The issue is how we choose to solve the problem.

### 5 SIMPLE RULES

Set the room as an island kingdom (you may want to have pictures of beaches, sea, etc.). Tell the children they are now citizens of their own island kingdom. Their first task as citizens of the island is to make up a name (get them to decide on a name, perhaps give suggestions, e.g. Sunnybeach island).

Then they have a vital task: they have to make up the rules for living together on the island. Get the children to come up with ideas for rules that they think will make life fair and fun.

Then, explain the situation faced by so many poor children in the real world, and ask if they have any ideas on how to make life fairer and more fun for them.

### BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD

A simple activity, designed to get groups thinking about the lives that poor children lead in developing nations. Explain the story of Moses in the Compassion DVD. Give out pens, paper, pencils, and ask children to draw pictures that illustrate the story. You may want to suggest some do a storyboard, depending on abilities.

Put the pictures up and encourage some children to talk about what they have drawn and why. Explain how Compassion is all about changing the story for children through the work that is done around the world.

### FROZEN OUT

Play a variation of 'Tag'. As the children come in, whisper a secret password to roughly 2/3 of the group.

The 'IT' person changes around and Tags the others. When tagged, they have to freeze. But in this game, there is a way to unfreeze: the IT person asks the one who has been tagged to say the password that sets them free.

At the end, 2/3 of the room will remain frozen because they do not have the password. How does it feel to be frozen out?

How could the ones that know the password have helped? Explain that many children are frozen out of a happy future because no one helps them.

### PRAYER GARDEN

Compassion believes that children will blossom if they are nurtured and cared for. But so many children never have the opportunity. Here's an activity to get children thinking and praying.

Have children plant flower seeds. Push stakes into the dirt between the seeds and tie pieces of card to them featuring prayer pointers (facts from the website, [compassionsunday.com](http://compassionsunday.com)) and the names of Compassion children sponsored by your church members. Use this display as a (mini) prayer garden for reflection, and as the plants grow, think of how you can help a child grow as a result of Compassion Sunday.