



Secondary classroom activities & teachers' notes

www.sciafyouth.org.uk



At SCIAF, our work is inspired by the Gospel and guided by Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching. Our hope is that by using the classroom activities, the prayer resources on the DVD ROM and by responding to the actions suggested, we might all play our part in creating the 'oasis of mercy' that Pope Francis speaks of in *Misericordiae Vultus* (Papal Bull for the year of mercy).



This year's WEE BOX appeal brings our focus to the beautiful country of Ethiopia and more specifically Borana in the south. Among other stories, you will hear from Carfi (above) and his children, who were helped by SCIAF. The majority of the educational resources will focus on the theme of mercy and the showing of that through the Church, therefore the E's and O's covered and made reference to, will be mostly from TIOF. Other areas of CfE will be referenced however.

This document will also include a short fact file about Ethiopia and a description of the work that you, as part of the SCIAF family, are doing in Borana.

We encourage you to use the rest of the DVD-ROM for videos, prayer resources, campaign actions and fundraising ideas.

Your support in giving, reflecting and acting is vital to our work in building a just world.



St Maurice's High, Cumbernauld

Thank you!

Ethiopia fact file

Capital: Addis Ababa

Population: 94.1 Million

Currency: Birr (GBP£1 = 32 Birr)

Official National Language: Amharic

Ethiopia is a large, landlocked country (1.2 million sq km) bordered by Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.

Vulnerability to climate change is high and significantly affects both poverty and the ability to grow food in rural areas e.g. the rising temperature has reduced the growing seasons by 15% since 1980 so less food is harvested both to eat and to sell.

Ethiopia is a beautiful and varied country with mountainous areas as well as lowland, big cities as well as vast rural areas.



In Borana

Borana has higher levels of poverty than the national average.

- **Only 39% of people are literate (and only 31% of women)**
- **62% of people use unsafe water sources**

The Ethiopian Government's social assistance programme (PSNP) supports increasing numbers of people in this zone.

Most people in Borana are pastoralists (livestock herders), either:

- pastoralists dependent on cattle or other animals, moving their animals seasonally to the best grazing lands while their family stays at home, where they can be supported.;
- agro-pastoralists dependent on livestock, crops and other sources of income;
- drop-out pastoralists with little or no livestock, who depend on other ways to earn money.

Pastoralism as a way of life is under threat as a result of drought caused by climate change and the loss of or damage to of natural resources. This, in turn, leads to increased levels of poverty and hunger.

ETHIOPIA

BORANA

SCIAF in Ethiopia

We're helping communities to protect their natural resources and develop alternative means of earning a living so that they're better able to survive/overcome periods of drought.



We are:



Improving access to clean water which improves their health and frees up time for education and work



Helping women to earn a living by setting up aloe soap making cooperatives



Helping pastoralists preserve their way of life by providing animals and veterinary help



Meet Carfi Sara and his family. Carfi's wife is called Kabale and they have three children. Loko is their eldest and she is 12 years old, Gamachu is their 8 year old son and Dabo is their youngest daughter, she is 4 years old.

Carfi and his family live in Fuloromso district in Borana, of southern Ethiopia. This region was badly affected by the drought in 2011 and unfortunately large parts of Ethiopia are suffering from drought today. In Borana, cattle are currency. If your cattle die you are left penniless. Climate change is reducing former grazing lands to desert which makes it harder to keep cattle and it's threatening the traditional Borana way of life.

Carfi's family were identified by a SCIAF partner as being amongst the poorest in his community. They were given 1 camel, 1 donkey and 8 goats. In his own words, Carfi said **"Before this I was in absolute poverty"**.

"I can't believe how different life is for me and my family now. I'm a respected man. We have camel milk to drink. When there is a burial service in the village, I can slaughter a goat to help. I have been helped and now I help others."

"When my life changes my children's lives change. My life is my family. My children used to look at other children who had milk and they would want it. They used to be envious. Now they have their own milk. They have enough to share with others."

When asked if Carfi had a message for the people of Scotland, he said "My message for Scotland is easy and short. Our community is poor and our land is a desert. I have changed my life because of you, but there are more families living in absolute poverty. I am just one man, helping to change many lives, the whole community can be transformed. When they ask me, I give to the poor, please do the same. **Together, we can make people strong**".

The Church – One body, many parts

1 Corinthians 12

The Bible tells us that the universal Church is the Body of Christ with Christ as the head. 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 also tells us that, if we are part of the Church, we are part of the Body of Christ and we have an important role in the effectiveness of the Church. As a body has many parts that together form the whole body, we too are very unique but form one Church with Christ as our head. We have different gifts and talents and that's what makes the Church so diverse and exciting. We can come together, different as we are, for works of good and in the case of social action, make a long lasting difference to the lives of those who experience poverty all across the world.

The Church in Scotland, through SCIAF, was able to help Loko and her family earn a living by teaching her business skills and helping her set up a small business with others. She's now able to support her 6 children comfortably.



'Ladies and children from Sebaya meet to pray for the rain outside their church'



Activity options:

Get crafty

After reading 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 and explaining the metaphor, print out the following page (on card), one per child and complete the activity. After completing, proudly display your crafts!

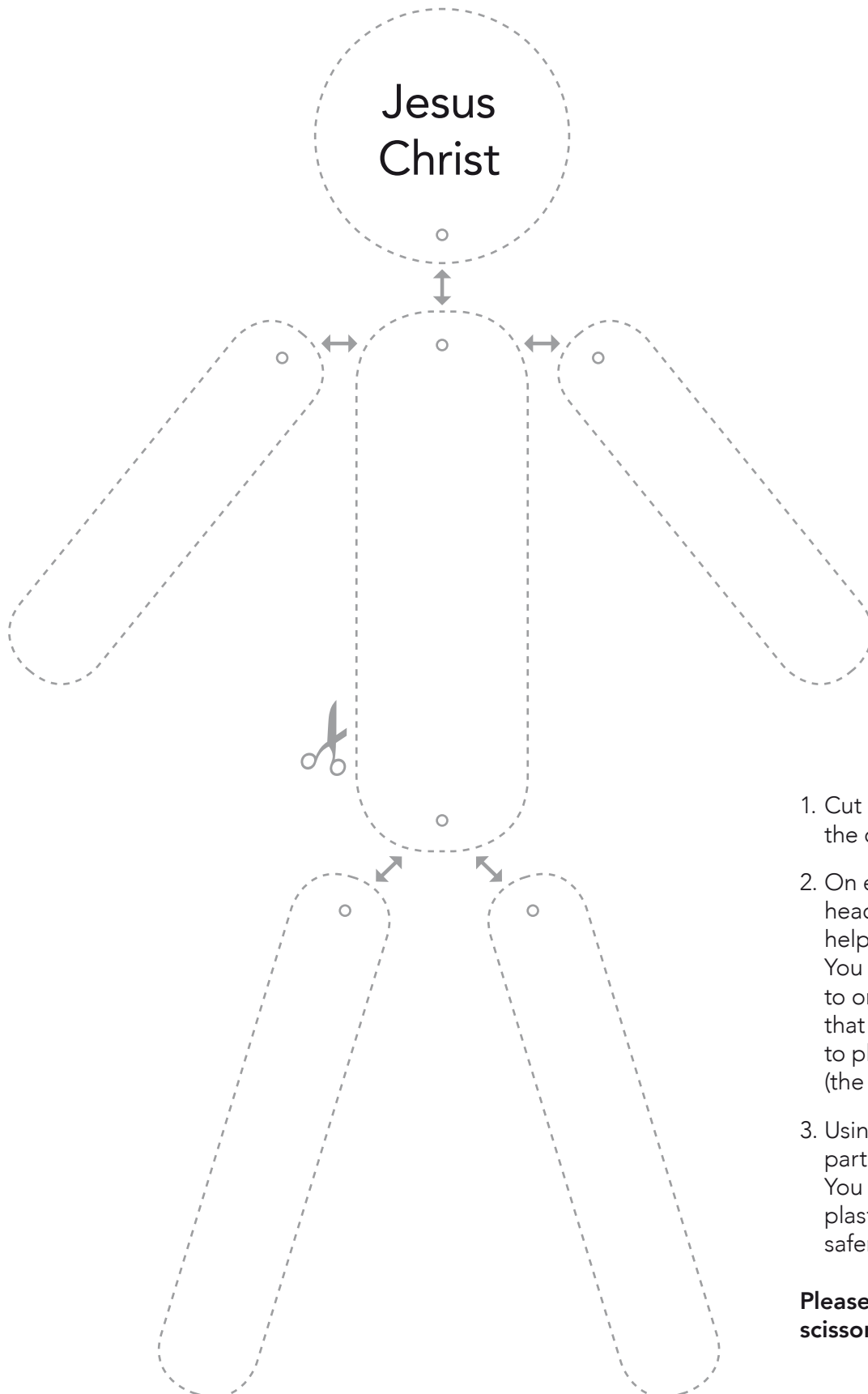
Recognising your gifts

After reading 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 and explaining the metaphor, get one pupil to lie on a big roll of paper and to create an outline of their body. After writing 'Jesus Christ' on the head space, ask the children to write their gifts and talents in the other space. Display the outline on a wall with the title 'What we bring to the body of Christ'.

Think and act!

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 together. Split your class into groups and discuss what they can contribute to the Church body. Then ask the groups to think about practical ways they can help their sisters and brothers who are living with little and suffering the effects of climate change in Ethiopia.

Build your Church



1. Cut out the body pieces along the dotted lines.
2. On each piece (apart from the head), write down things that help the Church to be effective. You may like to add your name to one of the parts as a reminder that you have an important part to play in the body of Christ (the Church).
3. Using 2 split pins, attach the parts to create one body. You may like to use some plasticine to make it easier and safer to pierce the holes.

Please be careful when using scissors and split pins!

Get dramatic!

Related E's & O's

– S1 RERC 3-21a points 1&2.

S2 RERC 3-21a points 4&6.

EXA 3-01a. EXA 3-14a.



There is no greater parable that speaks of mercy and compassion for our neighbours than 'The Good Samaritan'. Parables are earthly stories with heavenly meanings. Jesus' intention in telling this story was not to primarily entertain but to help people think about the meaning in the story.

The main point of the story is to challenge who we think our neighbours are. The story shares how a man from Jerusalem is beaten, lay close to death and people who you would expect to help him, walk past him. Then a Samaritan (people from Jerusalem would not associate with Samaritans) came upon him and showed him great mercy. He treated his wounds, took him to a safe haven and paid for his accommodation.

Ask your pupils to split into groups and set them the challenge to recreate the parable from a modern perspective. The main points of the parable should remain the same but encourage the pupils to change the characters to people who we understand to stereotypically 'not get on' or don't expect to associate with each other. For example the Good Samaritan/beaten man from Jerusalem could become a rich person/poor person or a Rangers fan/Celtic fan.

Other parts of the story could change too, like taking someone to the hospital in a car rather than an inn on a donkey! Encourage creativity while keeping to the key points.

After writing the new script, practice and involve any props you might need.

Try and arrange to present the dramas at an assembly or at least to the rest of the class.

To conclude the lesson, revisit the point of showing mercy and recognising compassion? Reflect on the families far away from our home, who you are helping this Lent.

In addition to the 'Recognising your gifts' activity you may wish to look at the following, especially with your S2 pupils.

Ask your pupils to read Acts 2:42-47 in small groups and discuss the following questions.

What are your feelings about how the early church used to be?

How does this picture of how church was, match up with what you think church is like today?

What can you bring to church to make it be what God wants it to be?

Be merciful, just as your Heavenly Father is merciful.

Luke 6:36

Jesus is God in person and we only need to look to a couple of cases (although they are more) where Jesus reaches out to all people, particularly to the vulnerable and poor and acknowledges their human dignity. He shows mercy and we are called to mercy also.

SCIAF show mercy, acknowledging human dignity and reaching out to the poor. We help people to help themselves. It is often the case that when people have been helped, they too help others.

Activities:

Carfi's story

Share Carfi's story (use page 5 of this resource and/or the WEE BOX video) of how after being shown mercy, he too, has shown mercy and is helping others in need. Discuss how the pupils show mercy and help others in need.

Related E's & O's

- S2 RERC 3-02a point 8b.
- S3 RERC 4-20a point 3.

Recognising your gifts

Using the class/school Bibles, split into groups to read John 8:1-11 (the woman caught in sin) ask the young people to discuss in their groups, how Jesus was acknowledging her dignity/showing her respect? What might have happened if Jesus hadn't stepped in and shown mercy?

You might want to bring out the points below to explain a little more and to help show how different Jesus was from the others in that culture.

- This lady was caught in the act of adultery and the people who were pointing the finger were waiting to humiliate her in front of the people she knew. It was a calculated response that stripped the woman of her dignity and left her nowhere to hide.
- The men around her publicly pointed out her sin and brought her before Jesus saying that the law demanded she be stoned. The Old Testament Mosaic law required that she be killed.
- Jesus didn't side with the Pharisees but showed the woman compassion and mercy. He asked that anyone who hadn't done anything wrong in their life step forward and throw the first stone. No-one did. He told the woman that no-one was left to condemn her and that he didn't either. He told her to go and sin no more. He gave her dignity back and she left knowing that she had encountered the Son of God.

Useful Information

Book a school speaker

If you're interested in hearing more about our work, require a specific subject input or want someone to collect a donation and say a word of thanks then please get in touch with us to arrange a visit. We recommend class input as we have more scope to provide an interactive experience but will happily speak to year group/school assemblies.

Email: youth@sciaf.org.uk or phone: **0141 354 5555** and let us know what we can do for you.



Share your stories

Don't forget to send in your photos and stories about all your SCIAF activities and we'll put them up on our website. Email your information to youth@sciaf.org.uk or tag us through social media.

Teachers' e-bulletin

We produce an ebulletin twice a year which will keep you up-to-date with new resources, events and activities. Email youth@sciaf.org.uk and ask to be added to the email list.



In this issue:

- WEE BOX 2016
- Christmas presents that change lives
- Attention Caritas students!
- A huge Scots anniversary thank you!

Welcome to your SCIAF teachers' update! Together, with your support and commitment we can build a just world. If you have any questions or want to find out more about any of the news items below then please get in touch. Mark Booker, Schools Officer. [Click here to email me.](#)



WEE BOX 2016

After an amazing Lent this year where schools raised over half a million pounds (with aid matches), it is hard to believe that Lent 2016 is just round the corner!

This coming Lent, we look to the country of Ethiopia and our schools resource that will be with you in January will focus on generosity on the theme of mercy and how as the church we show mercy together. Classroom activities, prayer resources, videos, inspiring ideas and campaign actions will all be included and we are sure it will be an effective part of the pupil and staff Lenten journey.

For planning - the following Ev & O's (not an exhaustive list) will be covered/referenced:
 S1 19253 RERO S4-106 51 points 1-4 52 points
 S44 53 points 283, 81/52 RERO 9-21a 31 points



Christmas presents that change lives

'Real Gifts' is an alternative way to buy Christmas presents for your friends and family that offers a real change for someone's life who really needs it. You might buy chickens that will produce eggs for a family who desperately need to improve their diet. It can also lead to them selling some eggs so they can buy other essential items. You'll receive a card and magnet to send to a friend or family member that this gift has been given in their name.

We also have a range of educational resources which you and your pupils can use to engage with Real Gifts in an active way. Certificates for Excellence Es and Os are attributed to the activities.

Seven reasons to support SCIAF

- **SCIAF** is the official international aid and development agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland.
- **We help the poorest communities** – regardless of their religious background.
- **SCIAF doesn't just give handouts; WE CHANGE LIVES** with long-term work that helps people to escape from poverty.
- **We can respond immediately to disasters around the world** through our membership of Caritas Internationalis – the worldwide family of Catholic aid agencies which operates in 200 countries and territories.
- **SCIAF tackles the causes of poverty – not just the symptoms.** We work at the highest level to challenge and put pressure on those in power to take decisions that help, not harm, the world's poorest people.
- **We invest in educating people in Scotland** – having an informed, civil society which is prepared to take action, challenge and persuade decision makers is crucially important in the fight against global poverty. Our education programme empowers people in Scotland to see themselves as global citizens.
- **You can trust us to use your donations effectively.** We have 50 years of experience and SCIAF is a highly professional development organisation with well-established monitoring procedures.

Contact us

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