



# Primary classroom activities & teachers' notes

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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.



Mount Carmel Primary, Kilmarnock

*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

## Related E's & O's

– P3/4/5/6/7 RERC 1/2 – 24a.

P6 RERC 2-01a part 5c.

HWB 1/2 -14a. LIT 1/2 -02a.

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 individual parts that together form the whole body, we too are unique individuals 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!

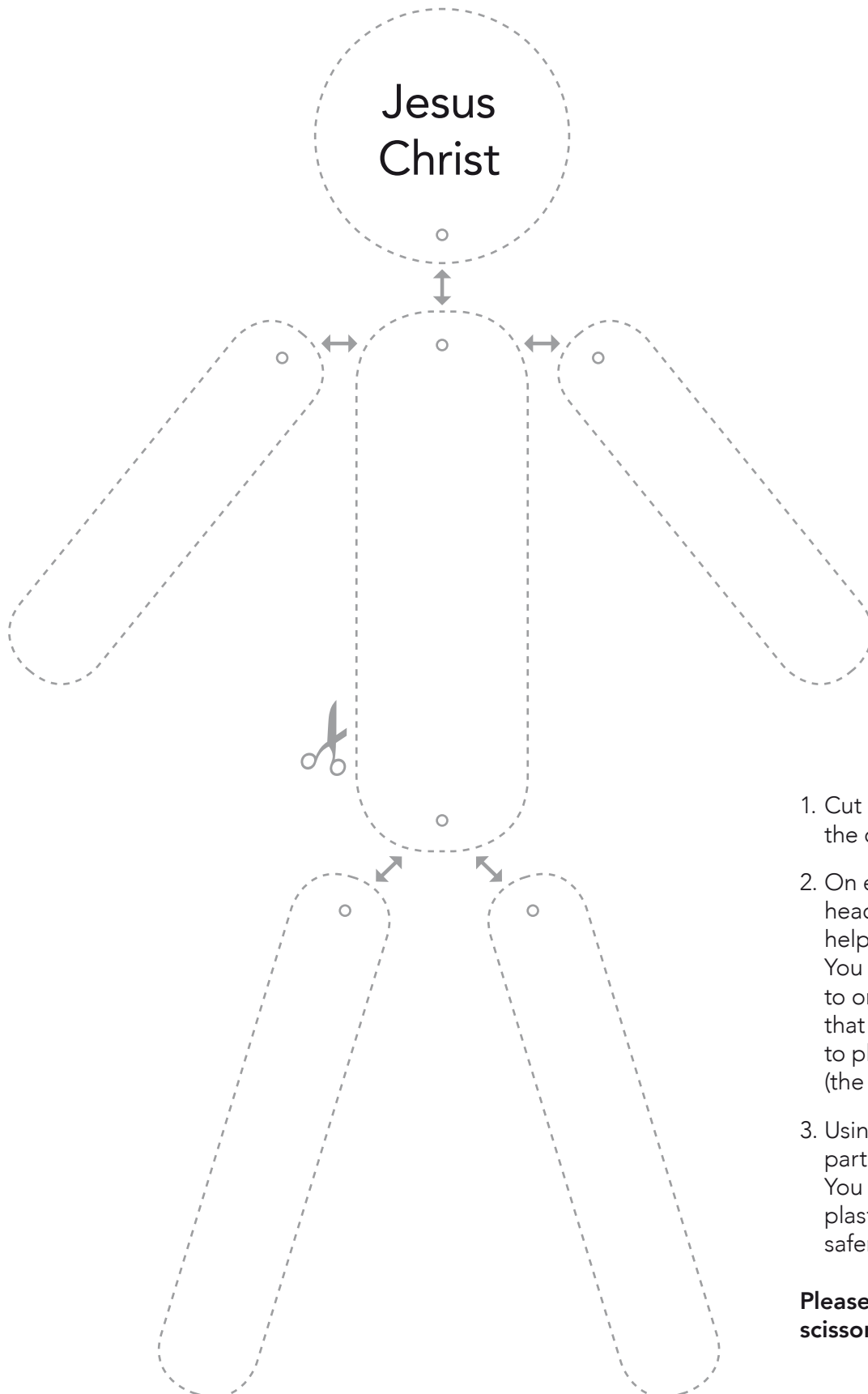
### Recognising your gifts

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. Split your class into groups and discuss what they can contribute to the Church body. Then ask the groups to think about practical things they can do to 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!**

# Be merciful, just as your Heavenly Father is merciful.

Luke 6:36



## Related E's & O's

– P7 RERC 2-06b part 1a&c and part 2c.  
P3 RERC 1-20a part 3. HWB 1/2-14a.  
LIT 1/2-02a. EXA 1/2 -01a. EXA 1/2 -14a.

Jesus is God in person and we only need to look to a couple of cases (although there are many 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 show mercy also.

SCIAF shows mercy, acknowledges dignity and reaches out to the poor. We help people to help themselves. People regain their dignity and a sense of pride to be able to support their own families and know that they have done it themselves. It's 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 children show mercy and help others in need.

## Recognising your gifts

Using the class/school Bibles, split into groups to read either Luke 17:11-19 (the healing of the ten lepers) or Luke 7:36-50 (The woman who was a sinner). Ask the children to discuss in their groups, how Jesus was acknowledging their dignity/showing them respect?

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

- Leprosy was very isolating. You were not allowed to be part of normal society. You were told to live outside the city wall and live off the city scraps. No-one would talk to you, hug you or show any compassion. By healing the people with leprosy, their dignity was restored and they were able to participate once again.
- We don't know the details of the woman in Luke 7, but we are told she is a 'sinful woman'. It is likely that she was well known as a sinful woman in the community and therefore 'looked down on'. Jesus restored this woman and acknowledged her human dignity. She was made in the image of God and although she had done wrong, she was shown mercy.

# Get dramatic!



**There is no greater parable that speaks of mercy and love 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 (who the people of Jerusalem would not associate with) came upon him and showed 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 and if possible directly to your primary 3 as this will link nicely to a specific E&O for them (p3 RERC 1-20a part 3).

To conclude the lesson, revisit the point of showing mercy and who our neighbours are? Reflect on the families far away from our home, who you are helping. Your neighbours don't just live across the street!



# Soap making

## Related E's & O's

Having learned about cleanliness, hygiene and safety, I can apply these principles to my everyday routines, understanding their importance to health and wellbeing. HWB 2-33a. LIT 2-02a. TCH 1/2-13a.

In the Borana zone in Ethiopia many people don't have access to clean water for drinking or washing and have no extra money to buy soap. The simple act of washing your hands with soap can help prevent the spread of illness and disease.

We're helping communities in Borana to have clean water by improving their water sources and building new wells. We're also working with communities including the women of the Milkii Co-operative to help them learn new skills, like soap making. With the money they make selling the soap at market, they can now pay their children's school fees, buy textbooks and grain to feed their families.

Explain that in some poorer countries, there is no clean, safe water for washing or drinking. Many children get sick or even die from diseases and illnesses which are caused by dirty water and not washing their hands. So it is really important that everyone understands why they need to wash their hands.



## Group discussion

As a whole class or in smaller groups, discuss the following questions.

**Question: What do we do with our hands?**  
- tying shoelaces, writing, clapping, eating

**Question: Think of activities or places that our hands are likely to get dirty.**  
- playing outside, gardening, at the toilet.

**Question: When should we wash our hands?**  
- Before eating, after the toilet, after touching pets

**Question: Why do you think it's important to wash your hands?**  
- Germs, disease, sickness

# Make your own soap

## You will need for the base:

- 3 tsp gelatine
- 1 tsp salt (to preserve the soap)
- 40ml of liquid soap
- 150ml of warm water
- 2 tbl spoons of glycerine

## Additional optional ingredients:

- Fragrance – a few drops of essential/fragrant oils, or vanilla essence
- 1 drop of food colouring (don't add too much) added to the water
- A squeeze of honey
- Rolled oats (just a few) are a great natural exfoliator
- Dried flower petals



## For the moulds:

Flexible moulds are easier to remove the soap, but non flexible ones may just need a few taps to release the soap when set.

- Deep lid of a jar e.g. peanut butter/ chocolate spread
- Ice cube trays
- Mini muffin baking trays

## Method:

Dissolve the gelatine in the warm water. Mix in the liquid soap, glycerine and the salt. Add in any additional ingredients and fragrances you would like. Stir the mixture gently, so not to create too many bubbles. Pour the mixture into your mould. Leave to set in the fridge for at least 4 hours.

Remove your soap from the mould and it's ready to use.



# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:youth@sciaf.org.uk) and ask to be added to the email list.

**SCIAF** **TEACHERS' UPDATE** Nov 2015

**In this issue:**

- WEE BOX 2016
- Christmas presents that change lives
- Attention Caritas students!
- A huge 50th 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 BIG CHANGE**

**WEE BOX 2016**

After an amazing Lent this year where schools raised over half a million pounds (with aid match), 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 our attention on the theme of mercy and how as the church we show mercy together. Classroom activities, prayer resources, videos, fundraising 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 E's & O's (not an exhaustive list) will be covered/referenced:**  
S1/S2/S3 RERO: 3A-10a S1 points 1-4 S2 points 3A4 S3 points 2A3, S1/S2 RERO 3-21a S1 points 1A3 S2 points 2A-21a

**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 help 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 the 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. Curriculum for Excellence E's and O's 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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Photos: Sarah Hunter.

