

Christian Blind Mission Sunday (15 October 2017)



Children's activities

We hope that these resources will make it easy for your church to learn more about Christian Blind Mission and be inspired to pray and give to help children with sight problems in Kenya. The resources are designed to be flexible so you can incorporate Christian Blind Mission Sunday into your worship and activities in a way that suits you and your church. However you get involved, we hope that your church will choose to learn more and feel moved to act, to hold a collection, make a donation, or undertake some fundraising activities to support CBM's work. Below are some ideas for leaders, and on the next pages are activity sheets aimed at primary aged children, for you to print and copy.

Children's presentation

This could be used as part of an all-age church service, or school assembly or during a Sunday School or Junior Church session. In advance, put 6 tangerines in one bucket or large bowl placed on one side of the front of the area where you will be giving the talk, and 6 apples in a similar receptacle on the other side. Ensure the area around them is clear of obstacles and hazards. Also have available four smaller plastic bowls and two blindfolds.

Introduce the talk by saying we are thinking particularly today about children who are blind or have problems with their sight, living in places such as Kenya. Do you know where Kenya is? It's in East Africa, and it's a very poor country, which means for some that there isn't enough to go around – some people don't have enough food or clean water, and not everyone gets to go to school or to see the doctor if they have a health problem.

Invite four children forward and explain they are going to represent children in Kenya. The fruit represents four things that we all need – the tangerines are food and water, and the apples are education and healthcare. You need to get two apples and two tangerines from each of the large bowls. The only problem is, half of you are going to be blindfolded.

Blindfold two children and give each child a bowl to put their fruit in. Explain that because people who are disabled are often at the back of the queue, the two without blindfolds will go first. Give the children a minute or so to try and get the

fruit, and then remove the blindfolds and look at what each child has got in their bowl. Thank all the volunteers and allow them each to choose an item of fruit to take back to their places with them.

Point out how it is particularly hard if you are blind or partially sighted and live in a poor country. You might not get the support that blind or partially sighted children in this country get, and you might end up not getting on at school, if you even get there at all. Talk about one of the children who Christian Blind Mission has helped in Kenya using the stories on the **Christian Blind Mission Sunday worship resources** sheet, or show the short film available from the CBM website. A downloadable photo gallery and a presentation you could adapt are also available.

Because CBM is helping children like Joseph and Christine with glasses so they can see their work, and special telescopes so they can see the board at school, they are getting a better chance in life.

When Jesus was talking about what was important to him, and God, one of the things he said was that he came to give sight to people who were blind and he showed it by healing people who couldn't see. He also said that we should love our neighbours. That means that those of us who are Jesus's friends and followers should also be especially trying to help our neighbours who have problems seeing, like Joy, Joseph and Christine in Kenya. We can do that through praying for them and also by raising money for organisations like CBM which help them.

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Children's activity sheet

Meet Joseph



Joseph is 10, and lives in Kenya, East Africa. He's had problems with his eyes since he was young, which meant he found it hard to learn at school. Eventually the teachers noticed the problem and Joseph was assessed at an eye hospital supported by Christian Blind Mission's local partner in Kenya. Now he has glasses and a special telescope to see the board at school. As a result, he's gone straight to the top of his class.

Colour in the picture of Joseph at school. What do you think he has been learning about? Put your ideas on the blackboard.



Wordsearch

G N I N I A R T G U X I
Y M K N G D O M Y O Q B
T N X O X Q M M B B P T
I C V I B R A N S H T K
L H E S L S G Q D S T S
I A G I I E N W E S H I
B R I V N S I T I S G R
A I H N D S F Q Q O I C
S T H I N A I L W U S V
I Y Y T E L E S C O P E
D E Y E S G R Z Z T D V
F N E N M G W U P S B I

Words to find

EYES
GLASSES
VISION
TRAINING
SIGHT
TELESCOPE
BLIND
CHARITY
TEST
MAGNIFIER
DISABILITY

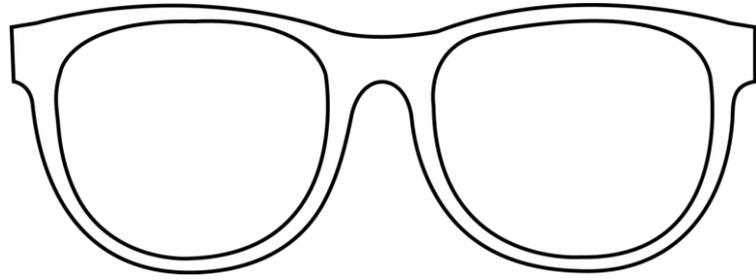
Put a tick next to five different ways that Christian Blind Mission helps children with vision problems like Joseph.

Just imagine...

In the Bible, Psalm 119 includes the prayer to God: "Open my eyes, that I may see wonderful things."
(Psalm 119:18).

Imagine you hadn't been able to see, but then you were able to. What wonderful things would you be most

excited to see? Draw them in the glasses below. You could decorate the frames, too.



When you've finished, say a prayer to thank God for all the wonderful things you have seen in your life.

About CBM

People living in poverty with disability are the world's forgotten people. CBM reaches out to people who others leave behind, transforming the lives of people with blindness and other disabilities in the poorest places of the world.

Right now, people needlessly can't see, hear or walk, go to school or earn a living. Driven by Christian values, CBM treats and prevents conditions that lead to disability and works with disabled people to tackle stigma and change attitudes.

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