

Tsunami: After the wave

Primary and secondary assembly and class activities aim to:

- remind pupils of the Indian Ocean tsunami on 26 December 2004
- show how people affected by the tsunami are trying to rebuild their lives
- explain the work that Christian Aid is supporting in tsunami-affected areas including providing trauma counselling
- highlight the issues that are still being addressed in these areas.

Introduction

On 26 December 2004, the most powerful earthquake in decades caused a tsunami in the Indian Ocean. It killed more than 250,000 people and left millions homeless. Tsunami: After the wave focuses on one project in Sri Lanka and shows how some of the money raised in the UK and Ireland is being used to bring some normality back to communities affected by the tsunami.

Tsunami: After the wave covers:

RE/RME themes:

- faith in action
- study the work of a Christian charity

PSHE/PSD/PSE/Citizenship/ESDGC themes:

- global awareness
- work of community-based national and international voluntary groups
- participation/active and responsible citizenship

Geography/Environmental Studies:

- places
- global citizenship
- people in place, people in society

Story: Sylvia's hopes for the future

Eleven-year-old Sylvia and her family live in Sri Lanka, an island off the southeast coast of India. Until Christmas 2004, their house was beside the sea. But when the Indian Ocean tsunami hit the island, their home was washed away by the water. Huge waves carried Sylvia out to sea. She managed to cling to a log and held on for more than 24 hours until an army helicopter flying overhead spotted and rescued her. Sadly, her nine-year-old brother and her best friend weren't so lucky. They both died.

And almost a year later, life still isn't back to normal for Sylvia. She lives in a special

camp with her mum, dad and older sister and lots of other families who lost their homes and loved ones.

'Life is a little better now,' she says. 'But whenever I hear the sound of the waves, I start to remember what happened on that day. Or if I hear the sound of pouring rain I remember and it makes me very frightened. It is difficult to live here in the camp. People often start rumours that a tsunami is coming. I would feel safer far away.'

People – just like you – all over the UK and Ireland were shocked by what had happened and acted quickly to raise as much money as they could to

give to charities like Christian Aid. Christian Aid is working with lots of organisations to help people affected by the tsunami. One of these, called Thadaham, is helping children like Sylvia by talking and playing with them; getting them to do the 'normal' things that they did before the tsunami.

'Thadaham play with us and teach us new games,' explains Sylvia. 'They teach us songs and dance. Most of the time we play.'

Sylvia has great hopes for the future: 'My dream is to become a teacher one day. I am back at school now. I would like to educate myself so that I can become a teacher.'

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Assembly idea for 7-11-year-olds and 11-14-year-olds



Assembly preparation

You will need:

- a wig
- a pair of glasses
- a set of false teeth or joke teeth
- a cuddly toy or a diary (to represent favourite possessions)
- a school tie or t-shirt (to represent your school)
- a set of keys (to represent your house)
- three volunteers – one to narrate Sylvia's story, one to read what she says and one to hold or wear the props
- a copy of this poster, preferably on an OHT or projector (the picture is available by clicking on the *Live Differently!* link at www.christianaid.org.uk/learn/schools).



Assembly presentation

Starter activity

Tell the pupils that you have brought a few things with you today to illustrate that because we have so many things we often don't realise how important they are to us until we no longer have them.

Ask your volunteer to come to the front and put the different items on or hold each one up as you mention them. (This works particularly well if the volunteer is a teacher with not much hair who is game for a laugh!)

Say: 'Do you ever feel grateful for your hair or your eyesight or even your teeth? Are you pleased to be able to come to school? Think about your favourite possessions. How often do we remember to be grateful for them?'

I wonder if you remember to be thankful for your house, or do you wish it was bigger or newer?

'Some of us might lose our hair (*remove wig from volunteer*), or our teeth (*take teeth back*), or our eyesight might get worse (*remove glasses*), but often that doesn't happen until we're a bit older. At that stage, we'll probably miss these things and wish we had them back!'

Story

'Hopefully, we'll never have to lose our school (*remove tie/t-shirt*), or our possessions (*take toy/diary back*) or homes (*take keys. Leave these items out where the pupils can see them*), but all around the world people lose these things for different reasons. This is the story of someone who lost everything.'

Show the picture of Sylvia and ask your other volunteers to read her story.

Summary

'Even though the tsunami happened a while ago, many people are still without their homes, possessions and schools. For most of us, it's hard to imagine how that might feel. What would you miss most? Things are still difficult for many people affected by the tsunami, but the money that many of you raised is making a difference.'



Bible reading

Psalms 100

Explain that the passage reminds us to be grateful for everything we have.



Reflection and prayer for 7-11s:

Ask the children to put the fingertips of each hand together in the shape of a roof.

From the comfort of our homes, let us pray for those whose homes have been destroyed.

Ask the children to point their joined fingertips forward in the shape of the bow of a boat.

From the safety of our school, let us pray for those who fish and work on the sea.

Ask the children to cross their arms over their chests.

From hearts full of sadness, in a moment of quiet, let us pray for those who have suddenly lost family members or friends. Amen.



Reflection and prayer for 11-14s:

As you read this prayer, ask the pupils to visualise the things you mention.

'Dear God, thank you for the homes we live in (*pause*), our favourite possessions (*pause*) and our school (*pause*). We're sorry when we take these things for granted and forget how fortunate we are. We think of Sylvia and all the other millions of people who were affected by the tsunami. Help us to remember them and all that they are still going through. Amen.'

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Live Differently! Tsunami: After the wave

comes in two sections:

1. A poster resource:

- story about a topical issue, where Christian Aid is helping local people to find long-term solutions – to become

- self-sufficient, create healthier environments, or live in peace with each other
- assembly for primary and secondary levels
- teaching activities at primary and secondary levels.

2. Web pages on

www.christianaid.org.uk/learn/schools

- background information with map
- further primary and secondary teaching ideas
- photocopiable worksheets, including faith views
- video clips.

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Class activities for 7-11-year-olds

1. Looking back

- a. Ask pupils to think back to Christmas 2004 and what they remember hearing about the tsunami. How did they hear about it? What did they think?
- b. Ask the class to find out how and why tsunamis happen. What happened as a result of this tsunami? You could visit http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/world/2004/asia_quake_disaster/default.stm which has lots of useful information including an animated explanation of what happened, or look at www.globalgang.org.uk/homeworkhelp/ for more information about disasters.
- c. Ask the class to write down five new facts that they have learnt.

2. Thoughts and feelings

- a. Ask pupils how they would feel if they lost their family or home.
- b. Go to www.christianaid.org.uk/video/512livedifferently and show the two video clips of Sylvia. One clip was filmed in January 2005, just after the tsunami. The second clip was filmed in April 2005. Alternatively, re-read Sylvia's story.
- c. Split the class into small groups and give each group a large sheet of paper. They should draw an outline of a person to represent Sylvia. Round the outside of Sylvia they should write down everything that happened to her and all the things she lost. Inside the outline, pupils should write down how they think Sylvia might have felt. The group should then draw a line from the things on the outside to the feeling they think goes best with it. They can use a feeling more than once.

d. In the second video clip and on the poster, Sylvia seems quite happy. Discuss with the children whether that surprises them and why they think she seems this way.

3. Rebuilding lives

- a. Since the tsunami, Sylvia's life has been very different to the lives of children in places like the UK and Ireland. Ask pupils to write down what they do during a normal week. They could keep a diary for a week of all the things they do. They should remember to include what they do after school and at the weekend.
- b. Much of their week will be taken up with school. Ask the children what they would do each day if they couldn't go to school. Would they still do these things if they were feeling sad or frightened?
- c. Discuss why pupils think it's important that everyday things like school and play were organised for Sylvia and the other children. Is it a good use of the money raised? Why? Is it more important for Sylvia to have a new home and possessions?
- d. Ask the class to list what is back to normal in Sylvia's life and what isn't. From the list of things that are not back to normal, identify which can be sorted out and which may never be normal for Sylvia.

4. Remembering the tsunami

- a. Ask the class to reflect on what they have learnt about the tsunami. Remind them that they have learnt how it affected people physically and emotionally as well as how it happened. You could use the second activity on the worksheet (click on the *Live Differently!* link at www.christianaid.org.uk/learn/schools) to help pupils understand that these affects might be very different in a rich country.

- b. Give each child a sheet of paper and ask some of them to write about tsunamis, some to write a prayer, some to draw a picture, and some to write a letter to Sylvia.
- c. Display the pieces of work on a board or in a scrapbook to remind people that life is still not back to normal for the people affected by the tsunami.

For more primary teaching ideas on this topic click on the *Live Differently!* link at www.christianaid.org.uk/learn/schools

Action

- As a class, raise money for people in other parts of the world who have been affected by natural disasters. As many of the people affected by the tsunami were fishermen, you could draw an outline of a fish or a boat on a large sheet of paper and collect enough coins to cover the outline. You can find information about how to donate money raised by calling 08457 000 300 (money raised will be used to fund Christian Aid's work with poor communities worldwide).
- Disasters tend to cause far more damage in poor countries than in rich countries. People often don't have insurance to replace their possessions and their homes may be more likely to collapse. A Christmas play exploring what living in a poor country is like is available at www.christianaid.org.uk/learn/schools for you to use with your class.

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Live Differently! expresses Christian Aid's concern for the dignity and worth of every human being. By supporting Christian Aid, you are among millions of people who think poverty is a scandal we do not have to accept. Your actions,

commitment and contributions will bring about a better life for people of different faiths and no faith who live in poor communities all over the world. We believe in life before death. Life is for living, not merely surviving.

Please send your comments about Tsunami: After the wave to schools@christian-aid.org

(For those without internet access, please telephone 020 7523 2246 for a copy of the supporting web pages.)

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Class activities for 11-14-year-olds

For the worksheets mentioned, go to www.christianaid.org.uk/learn/schools and click on the *Live Differently!* link.

1. Looking back

a. Ask pupils what they were doing on Boxing Day 2004 and when they remember hearing about the tsunami. At what point did they realise how serious the situation was? Allow them time to share their thoughts and feelings. Write key words from your discussion on the board.

b. Ask the class to create the front page of a newspaper from a few days after the tsunami, reporting on the event and its effects.

c. You could extend this activity by looking at the words used in reports made by newspapers and charities (see www.christianaid.org.uk/world or www.cafod.org.uk) after the tsunami. How does the way they talk about people affected by the tsunami differ?

2. Clearing up

a. After a disaster like the tsunami there are many things that need to be done to help people get their lives back together again. As a class, make a list of the things you think are most important (eg rebuilding homes, clearing up debris, burying the dead, getting schools up and running, providing people with new possessions, organising games for the children, reconnecting water supplies, re-opening businesses, offering trauma counselling and providing access to medical advice and services).

b. Split the class into small groups and ask them to put these things in the order they think they should be done. Each group should report back to the rest of the class on their list and explain why they chose this order.

c. Ask pupils to imagine that they have been given money to spend on helping people affected by the tsunami. How would they spend it? Ask them to come up with a project that they think would be a good use of the money.

d. You could use the worksheet from the accompanying online material to extend this activity.

3. Back to school

a. If you have internet access and a whiteboard, go to www.christianaid.org.uk/video/512livedifferently and show the class the two video clips of Sylvia. One clip was filmed in January 2005, just after the tsunami. The second clip was filmed in April 2005. Alternatively, re-read Sylvia's story from this poster.

b. Are the pupils surprised that Sylvia is back at school and playing but not back in her own home yet? Why do they think that might be?

4. Rebuilding lives

a. The project, run by Thadaham, that is helping Sylvia to have a relatively normal life by making sure that she has time to play is one of many supported by Christian Aid. Ask pupils to do some research on how Christian Aid is using the money raised by the tsunami appeal on other projects. You can find more information at www.christianaid.org.uk and www.dec.org.uk

b. Ask pupils to choose one of the projects that they think is a good use of the money. They can then give a two-minute presentation outlining why they think the money should be spent in this way.

c. As a class, decide which project you think is the best use of the money. Why?

5. What next?

Ask the class to produce more newspaper front covers showing what is currently being done in tsunami-affected areas and reporting on what still needs to be done.

For more secondary teaching ideas on this topic click on the *Live Differently!* link at www.christianaid.org.uk/learn/schools

Action

- As a class, raise money for people in other parts of the world who are affected by natural disasters. As many of the people affected by the tsunami were fishermen, you could draw an outline of a fish or a boat on a large sheet of paper and collect enough coins to cover the outline. You can find information about how to donate money raised by calling 08457 000 300 (money raised will be used to fund Christian Aid's work with poor communities worldwide).
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Christian Aid

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Websites: www.christianaid.org.uk www.christian-aid.ie **Children's website:** www.globalgang.org.uk

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