



# Exploring Christian Aid

## lesson plans

**Curriculum links:** RS, Citizenship, PSHE.

**Aim:** to understand the work of Christian Aid and its motivations as a Christian international development charity.

**Themes:** living in the wider world, faith-based motivations for charity work, caring for the world and people in poverty.

**Resources needed:** a selection of charity logos, *Exploring Christian Aid* poster (available from [orders@christian-aid.org](mailto:orders@christian-aid.org) quoting the code F2304) and film (at [christianaid.org.uk/explore](http://christianaid.org.uk/explore)), a globe or atlas.

These activities, suitable for 7- to 11-year-olds, each take about 20 minutes, and can be used separately or together depending on the time you have. Activities 1 and 2 fit well together, followed by activities 3 and 4.

### Activity 1: What is a charity?

**Aim:** to explore what a charity does, and to consider the variety of charities in Britain and Ireland that support different causes.

**Ask** pupils what they think of when they hear the word 'charity'. Split the class into smaller groups and encourage pupils to come up with their own definition of charity.

**Explain** that a charity is an organisation that aims to help someone or something. Ask the following discussion questions, if appropriate:

- What do charities do?
- Why do people need charities?
- Do you think they're important?

**Display** a range of charity logos on the screen, one by one, and encourage the groups to guess which charity each logo belongs to. You could

make this a competition with a prize for the group who guesses the most. Then show all of the charity logos on the screen and create a list of categories: animal charities, children's charities, health charities, environmental charities, local charities, international charities, religious charities. Ask pupils to put the names of the charities into categories, or into more than one category as they fit.

**Explain** that charities raise money from the general public and there are many reasons why people choose to support a charity.

**Make** a list of reasons as a class why someone might support each of the categories of charity that you've chosen.

## Activity 2: Who are Christian Aid?

**Aim: to understand the type of work that Christian Aid does all over the world and where it works.**

**Show** the Christian Aid logo and ask pupils what they know about Christian Aid already and which category of charity they think it fits into.

**Use** the *Exploring Christian Aid* film, available from [christianaid.org.uk/explore](http://christianaid.org.uk/explore) and encourage the class to watch closely.

**Play** this True or False quiz:

**Christian Aid started after the Second World War, in 1945.**

True, Christian Aid is older than most of our parents and some of our grandparents!

**Christian Aid works in about 20 of the poorest countries all over the world.**

False, Christian Aid actually works in around 50 countries in four areas of the world!

**Christian Aid only helps people when emergencies happen like earthquakes and floods.**

False, Christian Aid also works all year round to fight poverty in all kinds of villages and towns.

**Christian Aid's big aim is to end poverty altogether.**

True!

**Christian Aid only helps Christians.**

False, Christian Aid works with people of all religious backgrounds and those of no religious background.

**Display** the following points as a summary:

- Christian Aid started after the Second World War, in 1945.
- Christian Aid works in around 50 of the poorest countries all over the world.
- Christian Aid helps in emergencies around the world like earthquakes and floods, but also works all year round to fight poverty.
- Christian Aid's aim is to end poverty altogether.
- Christian Aid works with people of all religious backgrounds and none.

**Explain** that Christian Aid works in four big areas of the world: Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Use an atlas or globe to show pupils where these areas are, or challenge them to find them.

**Use** our interactive whiteboard resource, *Global Explorers*, to investigate countries that we work in. Go to [christianaid.org.uk/globalexplorers](http://christianaid.org.uk/globalexplorers).

Or go to [christianaid.org.uk/whatwedo](http://christianaid.org.uk/whatwedo) to discover even more about what we do around the world.

## Activity 3: What's Christian about Christian Aid?

**Aim: to learn about the faith-based motivation of Christian Aid and its supporters.**

Christian Aid works with people living in poverty, no matter what their faith is or if they have none. It's called Christian Aid because it was started by Christians who believed that the Bible teaches us to care for others.

**Read** the story of the Good Samaritan from the Bible (Luke 10:25-37) or use this summary:

One day a Jewish man was walking down a dangerous, desert road when he was attacked by robbers. The robbers beat him up, took all his clothes and left him for dead.

A little later a priest walked down the same road. He saw the man lying there but he crossed over and walked past on the other side.

Soon after, another very religious man walked down the road. He was Jewish like the man who'd been attacked. He also saw him lying in the road, but he also crossed over and walked past on the other side.

After a while, a third man walked down the road. He was from a different place and a different religion to the man who'd been

attacked. He was a Samaritan, and the Samaritans and Jews hated each other. When he saw the man lying in the road he went over to him.

He bandaged the man's wounds and put him on a donkey. He took him to a hotel and cared for him. Then he paid the bill and said to the hotel owner that he would cover all the costs for the man to be looked after until he returned.

**Split** the class into groups and encourage them to think of questions they might ask the Good Samaritan about the story. Have each group

pick someone to role-play the Good Samaritan and answer the questions. They could take it in turns if everyone is keen! As a class, discuss the questions and answers, and how people can be like the Good Samaritan today.

Many Christians today also see this teaching as a reason to use their lives to make life better for other people, and Christian Aid helps many Christians to put their faith into action.

**Discuss** as a class how supporting Christian Aid helps people to put their faith into action.

## Activity 4: Who does Christian Aid help?

**Aim: to discover how Christian Aid works; to compare what life is like for children around the world.**

Using the *Exploring Christian Aid* poster, look together at the section 'How help happens'

**Read** out Ivana's story from the poster and the four steps (and ask your class if they recognise her from the film).

**Use actions** to demonstrate the four steps (giving money, sending it to a country, partner providing materials, a community changing their situation) and act it out together.

See how the process works by considering 'How help happens' for Ivana's family.

**Ask** pupils to fill in the blanks from this template, which can be adjusted depending on ability:

1. Christian Aid supporters in Britain and Ireland give money to Christian Aid.

2. Christian Aid gives the money to [the partner] CIPCA based in [country] Bolivia, where it works.

3. [The partner] CIPCA use the money to provide [animal] hens and [animal] sheep for Ivana's family in [country] Bolivia.

4. Ivana's family use the [animal] hens and [animal] sheep to change their situation and to provide themselves with food to eat every day.

**Think** together as a class about how Ivana's life might change because of Christian Aid's help. Then, come up with a list of different ways that your school could help children like Ivana, perhaps by taking action, raising some money or by learning more about what Christian Aid does.

## Find out more/further activities

If your class wants to focus on a particular country or find out more information, you can use our interactive whiteboard resource – [christianaid.org.uk/globalexplorers](http://christianaid.org.uk/globalexplorers) – which features quizzes, worksheets and videos about Christian Aid.

**Monthly assemblies:** each month we produce an assembly plan that helps pupils to engage with the world around them. Go to [christianaid.org/learn](http://christianaid.org/learn) to find out more.

**Simulation games:** for more classroom activities, we produce games that help pupils to understand the complexities of poverty. Go to [christianaid.org.uk/games](http://christianaid.org.uk/games)

