



amos trust

Children's Activity for Palestine





introduction

Many Palestinians have been refugees for over 60 years. Over 700,000 Palestinians had to flee their homes in 1948. They took their keys and what possessions they could carry and were told they could return in two weeks time.

Sixty seven years later they still have not been able to return home even though it is their legal right to do so. Today many of these refugees still live in refugee camps in the West Bank, in Jordan, in Egypt, in Lebanon, in Gaza and in Syria.

You may recently have seen the pictures like the one below (courtesy of The Independent/Associated Press), from Yamouk Palestinian refugee camp in Syria or heard about it on the news. Most of the residents are once again having to flee and join the thousands of refugees looking for a place of safety.





exercise

ONE:

Get the children into groups (preferably with an adult or older child in each group). Ask the children what the word refugee means to them. Encourage them to share what they know about refugees.

For older children you could show them our 'Two weeks is a long time in Palestine' film.

TWO:

- give them a set of the possession cards (as detailed below), plus some blank cards
- ask the children to look at all the cards – these are examples of their possessions. Explain to them that their family has just been told that they have to leave in 30 minutes and that they can take six items with them.

What would they take? They can write the names of other things on the card if they like. Do they think their parents would make the same decisions?

- now tell them they only have 10 minutes to decide what to take and can only take three items – what would they leave behind?
- now tell them they have 1 minute to decide and can only take one item – set a stopwatch for one minute for for this part of the exercise
- get the children back into groups and chat with them about their choices, how it felt and what they would miss the most if they had to leave their home.

**THREE:**

Ask them what they think they can do for refugee children. If they wish to pray, then we suggest that you cut out suitcase shapes or draw a picture of the things they would take and ask them if they would like to write a prayer on these.

If they want to raise money or give, then please do talk to them about how they might support the [Amos Christmas Appeal](#). You could share the children's stories with them ([see page 6 of the Bethlehem Pack](#)). Perhaps they could organise a cake sale, a car wash or do some carol singing?

FOUR:

Finally we suggest that you tell them how Jesus was himself a refugee when he was a child and how he had to flee Bethlehem with his parents and travel down to Egypt.

POSSESSION CARDS:

Before you start this exercise, print out a set of cards or slips of paper with the following words or pictures on:

- pots and pans
- food
- a change of clothes
- pets
- photos
- a cuddly toy
- books
- games
- a TV
- a computer
- passport and papers
- tools
- a bicycle
- jewellery
- keys

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