



Collective Worship on Burundi – ‘Justice for Jerome’

This CW uses a resource from Christian Aid that was produced some years ago. It has been adapted.

Aim: To explore an aspect of life in Burundi which draws upon the theme of justice.

Materials

The powerpoint from Christian Aid.

A teacher or child to read the words of Jerome’s mother.

Introduction

Talk about going to school – have a few objects in a bag that link with school – maybe your school badge, a book to read, a book to write in, a pencil, a packed lunch. Encourage children to briefly talk about what they like best at school and why each of the things you have in the bag is important.

Ask: What would it be like to not go to school? What would you miss the most? What would you like about not coming to school? What if you only came to school for half a day instead of the whole day – what would you do with the rest of your day?

Development of theme

Show **powerpoint slide 2** to remind children where Burundi is. Ask what they remember about Burundi from the worship they have already had on this.

Show slide 3 – explain that in Burundi there are different tribes – one called the Batwa – these are the tribe that have lived in Burundi for many years. They have often felt bullied and left out by other people in Burundi. Batwa children very often can’t go to school because the parents of other children don’t want the Batwa to mix with their children. What might this mean for these children?....jobs, money in the future.

Show slide 4 – most Batwa children just have to live on the farms their parents own and never get the chance to go to school.

Show slide 5 – introduce Jerome Nduricimpa (he is the boy in the bottom left of the picture). He is 12.

Get a child or other adult to read what Jerome’s mother said.

We (Batwa people) have been excluded from the education system. A lot of people were against us. I only completed my first year of primary school. Then I was kicked out of school. People said we, the Batwa, were not clever enough to go to school.

Imagine how Jerome felt at not being able to go to school. All those things you enjoy about school, he wouldn't be able to have.

Christian Aid decided that Jerome and other children like him in Burundi should be able to go to school – so they built some schools. That means that Jerome can now learn things that will help him when he is older. Jerome has decided that he wants to be a doctor when he older because that way he can help lots of people.

Reflection

In the quiet, think about the things at this school you really enjoy. In a moment we are going to say 'thank you' out loud, together. (Allow a few moments and then introduce 'thank you'). Now think of something that you find difficult or challenging at school – in a moment we are going to say 'please help me God'. (Again, allow a few moments and then introduce 'please help me God').

Now open your eyes and look at Jerome and his friends in Burundi.

Prayer (as children look at picture)

Father God we pray for Jerome and other children like him in Burundi. Thank you for his school and all his friends and teachers. Help him to learn really well so that he can go on to help others when he is older. Help us in our school as we get to know more about Burundi.

Amen

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