

# Hey! It's Not Fair!

PRESENTED BY



CBM



KIDS  
CARE

## *Christmas in Kakuma*

LEARNING OBJECTIVE	For children to learn about the injustice of war and persecution that forces people to flee their home.
KEY CONCEPT	Jesus loves and cares for refugees and wants us to do likewise
BIBLE APPLICATION	Zechariah 7:9-10
MISSION ADVENTURE	Kenya - South Sudan Border



BIBLE VERSE:

**Zech 7:9-10**

**Show mercy and compassion to one another**



### **BACKGROUND:**

CBM is committed to responding to the plight of those displaced by war, violence and persecution.

One of the countries in the world greatly impacted by conflict is South Sudan. CBM's partner, Faith Evangelical Baptist Churches (FEBAC), faces immense challenges as their war-torn country struggles with conflict and insecurity that has greatly contributed to hunger. In early 2017, famine was officially declared in several regions.

According to the UNHCR, 1 in 3 people have been forcibly displaced – either within South Sudan or across borders. Inside the country, 7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. Nearly 65 percent of the forcibly displaced in South Sudan are children under 18.

Over 2.5 million are now living as refugees in other countries. Many sought refuge in Kakuma Refugee Camp in northwestern Kenya. While this camp is home to displaced people from 20 countries across East Africa and the Middle East, the fastest growing population is from South Sudan. When conflict erupted again in December 2013, the number from South Sudan exceeded 80,000. They joined a large group that has been living in Kakuma since conflicts in the 1990's.

FEBAC started churches in Kakuma camp that quickly grew to thousands of members. The majority are orphans and widows.

Together, CBM and FEBAC are responding to the needs of those displaced. In South Sudan, emergency relief has been provided, such as rice and beans, maize flour, cooking oil, plastic for tents, blankets, and mosquito nets. In Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya, sewing machines and grinding mills help refugees have nutritious food and earn family income; and peacebuilding training has helped community leaders, women, youth and other opinion leaders to become peace promoters in the camp, where inter-ethnic conflict can erupt.

### **Interesting Facts**

- South Sudan is the world's newest country, and the 54th country in Africa.
- Sudan was the biggest country in Africa until the South separated to become its own country, South Sudan.
- Kakuma Refugee Camp was where the "Lost Boys of Sudan" lived for years. The movie, *The Good Lie*, is based on their story. In fact, Kakuma camp was established (in 1992) to provide refuge for thousands of children fleeing war in Sudan.

### **OPENING COMMENTS:**

Did you know that nearly 1 person is forced to leave their home every 2 seconds in the world as a result of conflict (war or other violence) or persecution (mistreated because of their religion, political beliefs, or other reasons). Hey, that's not fair, is it!

That means a HUGE number of people (over 68.5 million) have been displaced in our world. Some seek safety in another part of their country – and they are called internally displaced. But many (over a third, over 25.4 million), are forced to flee their country. They seek refugee status in another country, so they can be safe.

Many end up living in a refugee camp, where they wait until it is safe to go home. It can be a long wait. They have to rely on the UN and other agencies to provide food and shelter and other basics. Sadly, many will never be able to return to their homeland. Some manage to be resettled in yet another country that becomes their new home.

Everyone should have the right to live in peace. And if they are not able to be safe in their own country, they should have the right to move to another country to be safe.



The following story is based on real life experiences of refugees living in Kakuma Refugee Camp including that of a widow, Pharon, and her four children (see photo of the family at a grinding mill in the camp).

*Karibu! "Welcome" to Kakuma Refugee Camp!*

*You might be surprised to see that this camp is actually like a big town. There are all kinds of small shops because people can't work outside the camp. There are schools, and even churches. This place is much bigger than my village back home. And there are so many people, from many different countries.*

*I am from South Sudan. My name is Anne, but my new friends here call me Amani. I like it! It means "peace" in Swahili. They say that I drive them crazy, I'm always talking about peace.*

*My biggest wish is for peace - peace in my country. We have had so many years of war. All we want is peace...then we can return home.*

*Mom is afraid to go back. "I will be the last person to leave Kakuma," she tells us. "I am not leaving until I am completely sure that peace has returned for good in our country."*

*We have lived in Kakuma for almost five years. I'm starting to wonder if we will ever leave. My friends say they feel the same way. Some are from Ethiopia ...some from Somalia...Burundi...Congo. We all go to school together.*

*We do a lot of walking here. We walk to school. Walk for water. Walk to church. Walk for food. Walk for everything. By the time I get to do my homework, it is night and pitch dark - there is no electricity. I have to stay close to the cooking fire to have enough light to study. Mom is happy that I am in school. She never had the opportunity.*

*I am so proud of mom. She works hard to make a new home for us here. She walks very far, across the camp, to get a bag of maize, sorghum or other grain. If she has enough money, she will walk far again, to another area in the camp that has a grinding mill, to get the bag of grain ground into flour so we can make porridge and other food. When she is not able to get to the mill, we have to use stones to grind the grain. This takes a long time and is very tiring. Sometimes we have to eat the grain without grinding it.*

*You can imagine how excited mom was when she heard that a new grinding mill will soon be opening near us. Our church helped to make this possible. They said that even people far away, in Canada, have helped in this project.*

*Mom loves our new church here in the camp. She says that they saved her life, helped her to have hope again. I am relieved to see*



*that mom is not sad all the time anymore. I was so worried. She is the only one to take care of us. I try not to think about when soldiers came to our village. We were so frightened. We fled into the forest, but dad was killed. It was so bad. After that, we walked for many, many days to get here.*

*You know, Kakuma is a good name for this place. It means "nowhere" in Swahili. And that's where we ended up, nowhere, surrounded by sand, dust and thorny bushes.*

*Some people have left Kakuma to go to other countries, far away. Mom says that if an opportunity opens, she will take it, to secure a bright future for us. As for me, I keep praying for peace. At church, they say that there will be peace one day, all over the world, when Jesus returns. Imagine that! What a great day it will be!*

### FOR DISCUSSION

1. What is the problem in the story? How does it make people feel?
2. What is helping Amani and her mom to have hope?
3. How does the story make you feel?
4. What can we do to help?

**CLOSING COMMENTS:** At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, who is also called the Prince of Peace. Did you know that Jesus and his family also experienced life as displaced people? When Jesus was very young, they had to flee to another country (Egypt) to escape the hatred and violence of King Herod. (You can read the account in Matthew 2). Jesus cares very much about the plight of refugees. In many of his teachings, he makes it clear that we too are to care for foreigners (refugees), and others who are vulnerable in our midst.



Mark out a playing area (3m x 3m) for your game and blow up 5 balloons (each a different colour).

Ask students what kinds of things you might face if you were from a country like South Sudan, in Africa, and had to move far away, to another country, like Canada. (new language; different customs; different food; cold climate/need warm clothes; housing; work; new school, etc.)

On each balloon, write a different major challenge, and explain the game you are now going to play: Imagine you are a refugee trying to juggle all the competing pressures of living in a new country. These balloons represent some of the issues you may face. Your challenge is to keep as many balloons in the air as possible for 30 seconds. You can not catch the balloons. When a balloon hits the floor or falls out of the playing area, it is out of play.

Throw the balloons, one by one, into the playing area. At the end of 30 seconds, time is up. Note how many balloons left in the game (if you wish to keep score).

Play again until each student has had a chance. Or add more balloons and make it a team challenge. Then play, once again, starting with one student and have another student join in, to help. You can keep adding students and/or balloons.

**Tip:** You can also keep time by playing music and stop music every 30 seconds.

Have a time of debrief. Ask students what they felt when playing the game and compare to how refugees feel as they face the challenges of starting life in a new country. (Note: You could compare to how it feels to move and have to go to a new school; and then add extra challenges like not knowing the language, etc.) It takes courage and perseverance to start life in a new country. As we saw in our game, what is really helpful is to have someone who will be a good friend; someone who will help you adjust to your new home.

\*Source: Adapted from Student Action for Refugees

## OPTIONS FOR OLDER STUDENTS: ROLES OF CONFLICT

Discuss conflict more in depth with older students. Divide into teams and give each team a large piece of paper. Instruct teams to draw just a tree trunk and leave lots of space for the branches and roots, which will be added later.

Now have teams discuss what causes conflict in the world and to draw roots on the tree, and list the causes on it (one root per cause). Once teams have lots of root causes, have them add branches, in the same manner, only this time listing what are the outcomes/results of conflict (each branch becomes an outcome).

Come together as a group and have teams present their conflict trees. Note that conflict also happens in refugee camps and with surrounding towns, who may resent having refugees there (or are poor and see supplies coming for refugees while they lack food).

Encourage students to think of a way that they (or class) could be peacemakers. Perhaps work on a campaign against bullying or advocate for the rights of refugees or others who may be marginalized/vulnerable in society. You could present on the grave injustice suffered by people who are called “stateless” (have no official homeland and no rights in the country where they are living).

Remind students that it all comes back to the state of our hearts. That everyone needs to have inner peace - God’s love and grace – to be transformed and live differently, like how Jesus taught.

## EXTRA RESOURCE

There are some great, short films (under 5 min) made by refugees living in Kakuma camp, especially “Welcome to Kakuma Refugee Camp”. See Film Aid’s channel on YouTube.



SNACK:  
**Popcorn**



Bring a bag of cornmeal and a bag of popcorn to class.

Countries around the world use many different grains and beans – like wheat, corn, rice, sorghum, soya, chickpea, lentil, etc. – to make flour. What do you think this flour was made from? (Show the cornmeal and/or pass around a sample so kids can take a turn feeling it.) It's cornmeal. (Show the bag of popcorn). It was made from kernels of corn that are dried like these. Corn (maize) is a popular grain used in Kenya and many other countries in Africa.

In order to make flour you need to grind these dried grains or beans until it is very fine and then they can be used to make many different foods (bread, porridge, noodles, tortillas, etc).

Pop your corn and serve as a snack; or have fresh corn or something made with corn - cornbread/muffins, tortilla chips, corn porridge/soup.

**Option:** Have children try to grind spices like whole cloves or peppercorns with a mortar and pestle or spice grinder. Or someone in your church may have a grinding mill for students to try grind grain or beans.



FUNDRAISER:  
**Kids Care Cook-Off**

Hold a Kids Care Cook-off to raise funds for a mill in Kakuma Refugee Camp. Decorate tables with samples of grains, seeds and beans. Have students (or teams) cook something that uses flour in some way (tortillas, pasta, falafal, veggie burger, crepes, etc.) Encourage creativity (assign each team a different country). Or simply have kids cook and serve soup and bread or muffins after a service to raise funds.



PRAYER:  
**Thank you Jesus**



Thank you, Jesus for your love and concern for all people. We know that you have a special place in your heart for refugees. We pray for safety for those in our world who have to flee their country. Help us to be good friends to newcomers in our country and to find ways to respond, with your love, to any injustices that we see.



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