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# **Children’s Talk**

*For this children’s talk you will need the following items or a picture or PowerPoint of the following items: some onions, carrots and a couple of green peppers; a rake or hoe, a piece of garden cane, a piece of string, a plastic soft drinks bottle, some seeds.*

* Place the items in two groups at the front of church – the vegetables in one group and the other items in another group (or show two PowerPoint images of the different groups of items).
* Explain to the children that this year the World Development Appeal is seeking to help people in a country called Mozambique. Tell them that because of where Mozambique is, it is quite a challenging place to live. The country is very prone to natural disasters such as cyclones and floods and droughts.
* Because of this some people in Mozambique, especially people in the countryside, are often hungry, they don’t have enough food to feed themselves or their families. This year the World Development Appeal is going to support an organisation that Tearfund works with in Mozambique, called CEDES, in helping these people become what we call ‘food secure’ – that means to know that they will have enough food to eat.
* Ask the children to look at the two groups of items (or at the two pictures) and to tell you which one they would give to the people in Mozambique who are hungry… hopefully they will tell you that they would give the people the vegetables!
* Tell the children that, yes, CEDES could just give the people food and they could probably buy quite a lot of food with the money that we hope to raise through the Appeal but then what would happen when that money ran out? Or what would happen if CEDES weren’t able to work in that village or town anymore? The people would be hungry again.
* This isn’t the sort of help that we want to give people through the World Development Appeal. Through the Appeal and through the people we work with in Tearfund and Christian Aid and the people they work with in lots of countries around the world, including Mozambique, we want to help people to be able to provide for themselves in all sorts of ways, including knowing they’ll have enough to eat. And we want them to be able to do that in ways that will last and make a real change in how they are able to look forward to the future. That’s called *‘sustainable development’* and it’s right at the heart of the World Development Appeal.
* So, let’s look at the other items we have here. Well, these are the sorts of things that people in villages like Inhassoro in Mozambique have around them. Tearfund’s partner, CEDES, comes along and together the people look at stories in the Bible – stories like when the prophet Elisha helps a widow have enough oil to pay her debts (2 Kings 4: 1-7) or when Jesus feeds 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish (Mark 6: 30-44) – and through these stories they learn that God wants to use them, and what they have (their resources) to transform their lives.
* They learn, from CEDES, that they can use very simple things like these to grow their crops, which they need to feed themselves, in a different way, a better way.
* They are taught how to prepare the ground, using the hoe, and how to plant seeds to the right depth (using the measuring stick or cane) and the right distance apart (using the string). And they are shown how important it is to water them regularly – and a plastic drinks bottle cut in half with some holes punched in the bottom makes a great watering can!
* This makes a big difference. The people can grow enough food to feed themselves all year round and they even have enough left to sell to others. This way they get some money as well and CEDES helps them to save that and use it to buy other things they need, to buy some more seed to plant, or even maybe to start a small business which helps the village further.
* So these seeds (hold up the packet of seeds) really do produce an amazing harvest! They not only produce lots of these yummy vegetables for people to eat, but they help the community in lots of other ways too. And learning to look after the land they have together, using the resources they have, means that the people have the hope and the confidence that they will be able to provide for themselves not just this year, or next year, but for years to come… even when difficult things like droughts or floods come along. And along the way they keep on learning about God from His word too, that He loves and cares for them and wants to see them flourish, that He provides for their needs, and that He has plans “… to give [them] a future with hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11)
* Sometimes we think we’re only small and we can’t really do very much to help in places like Mozambique but we’ve all got resources we can use too - whether that’s praying for the people in Mozambique and the organisations helping them, like Tearfund, or giving a little bit of our pocket money to the World Development Appeal.
* We can trust God to use what we offer Him in amazing ways, just like the little boy with the loaves and fish that were used to feed all those people.
* And so we can sow seeds too – seeds of hope for a better, fairer, more secure future for others all around the world. Little seeds, that with God’s help, can grow in remarkable ways and give us all a taste of His kingdom come and coming.
*End by saying the Lord’s Prayer with the children.*