

# Together in Kenya Campaign Assembly



## LEADER'S NOTES

These notes accompany the Together in Kenya assembly and provide the information you need to present the assembly to children.

This assembly has been prepared by Mission Together, which is the children's branch of Missio – the Pope's official charity for overseas mission. 96% of money raised by children for Mission Together goes towards our work supporting children overseas.

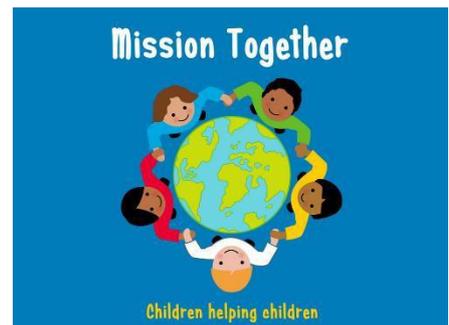
While all projects are supported by the Catholic Church, Mission Together follows Christ's example – helping everyone in need, regardless of background or belief.

## SLIDE ONE

Welcome to your Mission Together assembly. This picture is the Mission Together logo.

***Ask the children if they can explain what the logo means.***

Invite suggestions and guide answers to the following:



The logo shows children holding hands around the world. They are wearing different colours to show they are from different places.

But even though they live far apart, they can still be friends and work together.

***Ask the children what the word 'mission' means.***

A mission is an important task or job. We all have a special mission from God: to help others and share God's love with them. When we do this, we become missionaries.

'Mission Together' means we can do the special job of being missionaries together, not just as a school but with children everywhere.

Just like the children holding hands in the logo, through Mission Together, children all around the world work together and help other children, no matter how far away they are.

Today we're going to hear about some children many miles away who've been helped by Mission Together.



The plantation is huge and far from town. As very few people have cars or bikes, the people who work there are unable to travel. So they rent small tin huts on the plantation to live in. Let's meet someone who lives on the plantation now.

## SLIDE FIVE

This is Eunice. She is 12 years old and lives with her mother, one of her six older sisters and her two young nephews in a coffee picker's hut. You can see Eunice's hut on the photo.

The huts only have one room with no windows, so it can get hot and cramped inside.

***Invite the children to imagine what it might be like living here, sharing one room with your parents, siblings and other family members.***

Life for the family is hard. As well as being hot and cramped, there is no electricity or running water here.

***Ask the children where they think Eunice and her family might get their water from.***

They must travel to the nearest lake or river, where the water might not be clean, and then carry it home. A tanker can deliver clean water, but you must pay for this, and many families can't afford it.

Because the coffee pickers don't own any of the land, they can't grow their own food and must rely on their wages from working on the plantation to buy food.

Eunice's mother and older sister both pick beans on the plantation. Although they work very hard for many hours, they only earn around £1 a day. This is not enough to feed a family, so families had no choice but to take their children out of school and send them to work at the plantation instead.

Without food Eunice and her friends risked getting ill. Without school they were not learning new things and were falling behind in class. It was very difficult for them.

***Ask the children how they would feel having to miss school, picking coffee beans all day, in the heat, with few breaks, from early in the morning until late in the evening.***

## SLIDE SIX

This is Sister Lydia. She is a Religious Sister.

***Ask the children if they know what a Religious Sister is.***



A Religious Sister is someone who has left her friends and family to live with other Religious Sisters. The sisters pray together and do what they can to help people and bring God's love to everyone.

Sister Lydia came to Thika with her fellow Religious Sisters because they knew that life on the plantation was hard and they wanted to help.

It wasn't long before the Sisters came up with a way to help the children and their families. They started a lunchtime feeding programme at the school.

**Ask the children if they think this was a clever idea? Why?**

It was a clever idea because holding the feeding programme at the school meant that as well as making sure children were well fed, children were also attending school.

## SLIDE SEVEN

Sister Lydia makes sure that the food served is nutritious and well-balanced to give the children what they need to stay healthy.

The children receive rice with beans, as well as some vegetables or fruit. The Sisters also provide a drink of milk. Meat is expensive and isn't served often.



**Ask the children why it's especially important to eat breakfast and lunch on a school day. Prompt them to consider how they feel when they're hungry. Weak, dizzy, tired?**

If you are hungry and tired you can't concentrate on your schoolwork. By giving the children something to eat, the Sisters are helping them to learn and to do their best in school.

The Sisters tell the children to use the gifts God has given them so that, when they are older, the children won't have to work on the plantation, but instead can become mechanics, nurses, carpenters, teachers, or even Religious Sisters!

## SLIDE EIGHT

The Sisters are loving and serving those children who are in need of help so that the children can be the best they can be!

They are doing something that Jesus wants us to do. A famous missionary named Saint Paul had something to say about it.

Let's hear it now.



St Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:23 – 24 (abridged)

'Whatever work you do, always do it as if you are doing it for God and not for human beings, and know that it is Jesus you are serving.'

The Word of the Lord.

**Ask how do the children think Sister Lydia and her sisters are serving Jesus?**

They are loving and serving the children on the plantation with food and helping them to get an education.

**How do you think the children on the coffee plantation are serving Jesus?**

By studying and doing their best at school. They are using their talents and God given gifts to the best of their ability.

**As the children how they can serve Jesus?**

Suggestions might be that they can always try their best at school – especially in subjects they find hard!

They can use their gifts for the glory of God. If someone has a good singing voice or plays a musical instrument, they could lead the music at a school Mass or Liturgy.

If someone is good at football, they could organise team games and raise money for Mission Together. If someone is cheerful, they could cheer up someone who is sad.

## SLIDE NINE

There is one special way to serve Jesus, and it doesn't rely on the different gifts we have. We can pray for each other.

Praying for children like Eunice is a special way to show our love and care. Knowing that they are remembered by children living thousands of miles away and that God cares for them, brings comfort and hope to children whose lives are very hard and who may sometimes feel they are forgotten.

Jesus taught us to pray for one another and he taught us to show love and care to others by doing something else too.

**Ask the children to guess what this might be? Mention the example of Sister Lydia who shares out food with the pupils to make sure they are not hungry. Point out the Red Box, as a means by which we share.**

Jesus taught us how important it is to share, so that nobody suffers. The Sisters at Thika are able to help so many plantation children, because other children share what they can to help too.

If we share our pocket money and raise:



**50p** we could pay for a meal and a drink for one child.

**£38** we could give all 350 children at school one drink of milk or porridge each.

**£200** we could provide 60 children with a piece of fruit every day for a month.

We know how important these things are to children like Eunice. Can you make a difference and help Eunice and children like her around the world?

## SLIDE TWELVE

But even before we share any money, there is something we can do that costs nothing but is very valuable!

***Ask the children if they can remember what this is.***

We can pray!

Let's do that now by saying the Mission Together prayer for all the children at the Thika plantation, for children here in our school and for children everywhere!

***[Click to reveal Mission Together Prayer.](#)***

