A gift for the world

A reflective craft activity

Explain to the children that today they will be thinking about the special gift God gave the world at Christmas. Ask the children what they think this is? At Christmas, God gave the world the gift of His Son, Jesus.

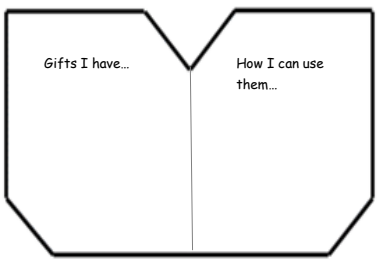
Every baby is a gift from God, and as he grew, Jesus helped us to see this more clearly. Through His words and actions, Jesus taught us that everyone, everywhere is made in God's image and likeness. Because of this every person has dignity and deserves to be loved and valued. We are all special to God.

For this activity you will need:

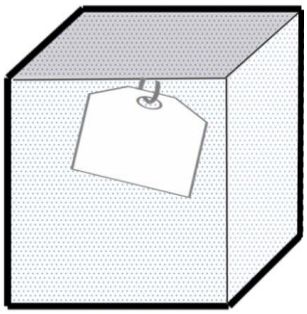
- Print out of Appendix One (one for each child)
- Pencils/pens
- Scissors
- Sticky tape, glue or stapler.

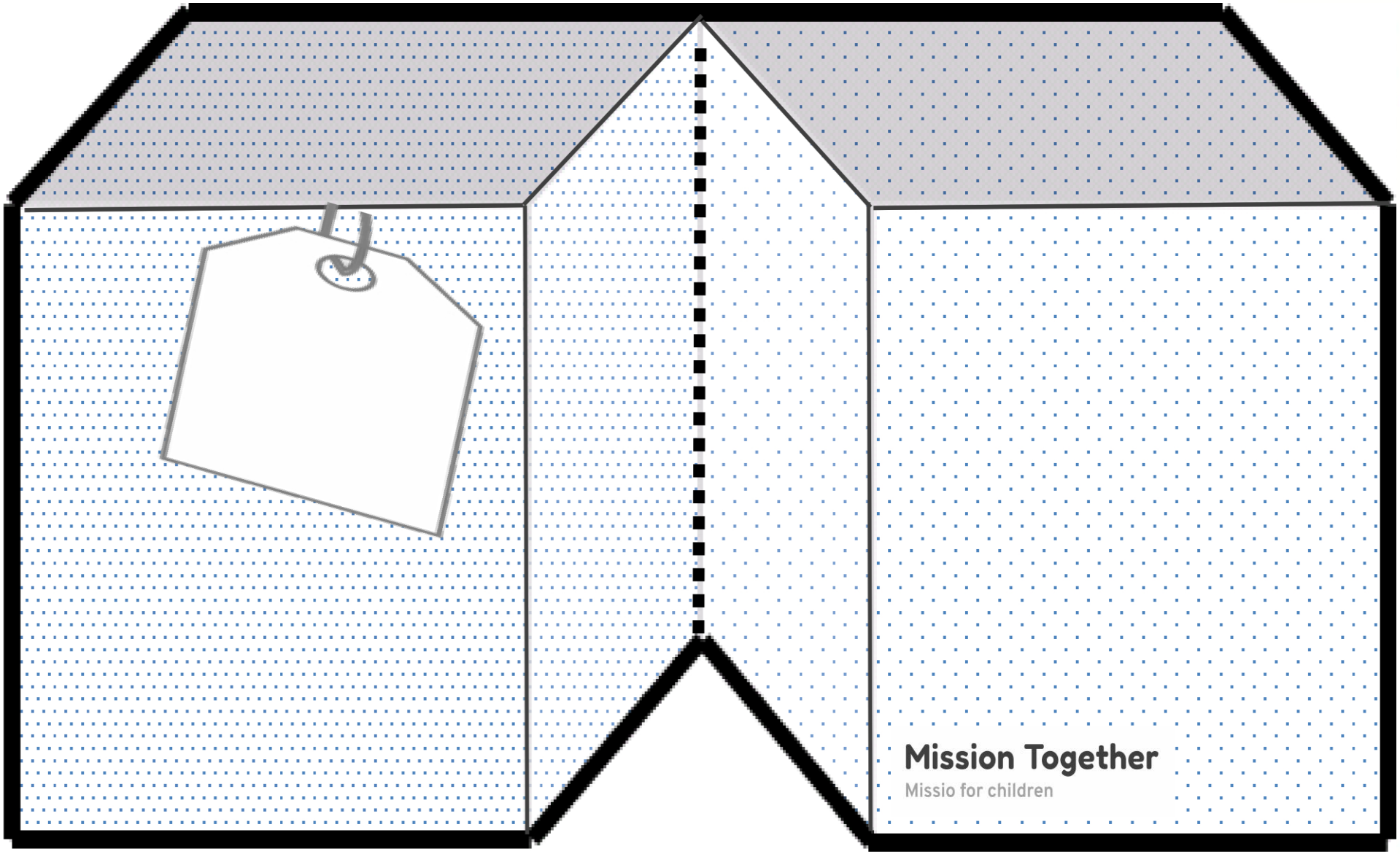
That means that you are special. Every part of you. Your hands, your eyes, your feet, even your toes! Jesus helps us to see that our bodies are precious gifts that can bring joy. Think of the joy we share when we use our hands to reach out in friendship. Or when we use our ears to listen carefully to someone. Or the joy we can express by dancing, running, playing. Today's activity reminds us that we are all precious gifts, capable of sharing God's love and joy with others. And when we share God's love and joy, we follow the example of Jesus and become gifts for the world too.

Instructions



1. Print a copy of pg. 2 for each child. Ask pupils to cut around the thick black outline. They should be left with a shape with one side patterned and the other blank. Ask pupils to position their paper so that the blank side is facing them.
2. Ask pupils to draw a line down the centre of the shape. On the left side, they are to write the gifts God has given them. This can be a e.g. sporting ability; a good listener, a patient person, someone who can make others laugh.
3. On the right side, children are to write ways they can use their gifts to be a gift for others e.g. be a committed and fair team player, to listen to an upset friend.
4. When they have finished, invite children to fold these two halves together along the centre line,
5. so they are left with a box shape. The writing should be 'inside' the box and the pattern 'outside'.
6. Ask the children to secure their box with sticky tape or a stapler.
7. Ask the children to write their names on the name tag before decorating their boxes.
8. Once decorated, pupils could present their gift boxes at your school crib, as a private promise to Jesus to use their gifts and abilities to share His love with everyone, and to build a better world.




Mission Together
Missio for children

Fundraising Ideas

Mission Together is the Catholic Church's official children's charity for overseas mission. With your help we provide life-changing aid around the world in whatever form it's needed. That could be funding a school feeding programme, a generator for a children's home, or medical aid for remote villages. Mission Together projects support all children, regardless of background or beliefs. Fundraising is a brilliant way to involve school, home, and parish. Below are a few seasonal ideas.

Please ***share your*** fundraising events with us @MissioUK, adding the hashtag #missiontogether

Winter disco: why not donate the proceeds from your school disco to Mission Together this year? Or if that's not possible, hold a sweetie stall or prize stall at the event to raise money for children around the world.

Carol Singing: either organise a group to visit houses in the neighbourhood (with teacher / parental supervision) and sing carols for donations or organise a carol concert at your church or school. Collect donations or ticket money for Mission Together. You could use our sing-along carols for rehearsals. Find here missiontogether.org.uk/sing-with-mission-together/

Christmas crafts: get the whole school involved in making and selling ornaments, wreaths, biscuits, and any other Christmassy gifts and treats you can think of. Donate the proceeds to Mission Together

Helping angels: encourage children to take on extra chores at home, for a donation to Mission Together.

Carol concert or Nativity play: These are much loved Christmas events often with many people keen to attend, ask visitors to make a donation towards Mission Together to share the love of Christ at Christmas with children overseas..

Family fun evenings: in colder weather and darker evenings, indoor events rule! Why not host a pupil disco, beetle drive, bingo night or race night at your school? You can use old horse race videos for people to place bets on, or even use wind-up toys or counters and dice to create races. Sell snacks and drinks to boost your fundraising.