

## LESSON 25: Children from Other Lands

### AIM

To help learners grow in appreciation of people of other races and cultures through hearing stories of children from other lands. (7.5, 12.4.2)

### OUTCOME

Learners have an awareness of, and appreciation for, people with cultures other than their own.



### WHAT YOU NEED

- \* Pictures (if possible) to match with the names of the children, a globe or map of the world (2)
- \* Worksheet (4) ⇨
- \* Paper squares (4)
- \* Pairs of sticks (5)

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 **Introduction:** Explain that no matter how we may differ from each other, we all have the same basic needs. Millions of people live on earth. Some live in villages, some in crowded cities, some on wide plains, or on high mountains. People live in green valleys and in forests and jungles and even in the desert. But no matter where they live, all people need food, clean water, homes, family and friends.
- 2 **Stories of children from around the world:** Tell these stories in a way you think suitable.

Travel to the different places on a globe or large map of the world.

- My name is *Moktar* and I live in the desert in Mali. We get food from our goats and sheep. Food is hard to find so we move often. My home is a tent so we can take it with us when we move. I wear a white cloth on my head to protect me from the sun.
  - My name is *Tatiana*. I live in a city in Russia. My home is a tiny flat and the winters are very cold. I wear a fur hat and coat to school. In the summer we go into the countryside. We like looking for mushrooms.
  - My name is *Maria*. I live on an island in Greece. I wear a blue and white school uniform. These are the colours of our flag. In summer we swim in the sea and we like to watch the fishing boats coming in.
  - My name is *Gretchen*. I live in Sweden. I ride my bicycle to school because the land is flat. When it snows, I can ski to school. I go to music lessons. I am learning to play the violin.
  - I live in a village in India. My name is *Nazeer*. We are very poor and my brothers go out to work. I am lucky because I go to school. I like playing cricket with my friends.
  - My name is *Caitlin* and I live in Ireland in a village. In summer I play outside with my little dog but in winter I stay inside in front of the fire. I like watching television.
  - My name is *Sam* and I live in a small town in the USA. My brothers and I go to school in a yellow school bus. We like to build snowmen and have snowball fights in winter.
  - My name is *Chong*. I live in a sampan (a small boat) on a river in China. I go to school and I like learning to read. My mother cooks in a wok and we eat with chopsticks.
- 3 **Prayer:** Loving God, thank you for all the people in the world. We are all a little different and yet we are all the same. Help us to love each other and to be welcoming to all people. Amen.

4 **Crafts:** Try some simple paper-folding or origami. This is a craft that has been practised in Japan for centuries. In order to make a ‘house’ give the instructions found on the worksheet. 📖 ⇒ You will need to practise beforehand so that your instructions are clear to the children. Remember that you start with a square piece of paper.

5 **Games:** Children all around the world like playing games. Here are two examples.

*Keep the Cattle in* is a game from Botswana. All the children except for two hold hands and move round in a circle slowly. The two children inside the ring are the ‘cattle’. The ‘cattle’ have to try to escape through the children’s arms. If they get out they join the ring. The two who let them out become the ‘cattle’.

*A New Zealand Stick Game:* This game is quite difficult but the children may enjoy trying it. Two people play the game. Each one needs two sticks or two pencils. Tap the sticks on the ground in time with your partner. Bang the sticks together in time with your partner. Knock your sticks against your partner’s sticks. Throw one stick to your partner and catch the one your partner throws. Make up your own patterns of the game.

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 6 Look at **foods** that are eaten round the world.
- 7 Look at **ways people worship** God round the world and perhaps look at light as a symbol or a special feast day or festival in the major religions.
- 8 **A Russian Folk Tale:**

### PANCAKES AND PIES

An old man and his wife were so poor that they had nothing to eat but acorns from the woods. One of the acorns fell from the table and slipped through a crack in the floorboards in to the cellar below. Before long the acorn grew into an oak tree and the old man had to cut a hole in the floor and the tree grew right through to the ceiling. Then he cut a hole in the ceiling as the tree reached out for the sky.

One day the old woman said to her husband, “We have eaten all the acorns we can reach. You will have to climb to the top of the tree to get some more.” Stepping out into the sky, the old man saw a rooster with a golden comb, sitting on a cloud and holding a hand mill. The old man caught them both and raced back to the tree and climbed back into the kitchen.

The man gave the mill to his wife. “Whatever shall we do with this,” she said as she turned the handle. The handle turned once and a pancake popped out. The handle turned twice and a pie jumped out. “Never again shall we have to worry about supper,” she said, for they had as many pancakes and pies as they desired. The rooster became their friend and they all lived together happily.

One day a stranger in fine clothes rode up to their house and asked for something to eat. The woman said, “Let me offer you some pancakes and pies.” The rich stranger just kept on eating and eating and now he wanted the hand mill for himself. While the old woman’s back was turned, he hid it under his cloak and jumping onto his horse, he galloped away to his castle.

The rooster was so sad to see how unhappy the old man and the old woman were that he decided to find the thief and bring the hand mill back to them. After flying a long time the rooster found the rich man’s castle. He crowed at the top of his voice, “Cock-a-doodle-doo. Stealing the mill will bring bad luck to you.”

The rich man became very angry and he ordered his servants to drown the rooster. They took the rooster and threw him into a deep, dark well. The rooster sang, "Before I sink, all the water I'll drink." And he did.

The rooster flew back to a window in the castle where he crowed, "Cock-a-doodle-doo. Stealing the mill will bring bad luck to you." The rich man ordered that the rooster should be burnt. "You won't stop me today, I have no doubt. I'll open my beak and the fire put out." And he did.

The rooster flew into the dining room where the rich man was entertaining many important people. The rooster landed in the middle of the table and he crowed, "Cock-a-doodle-doo. Cock-a-doodle-doo. Eating these pies will bring bad luck to you." The guests were worried so they ran off and never came back again.

The rooster picked up the hand mill and flew back to the old man and the old woman. Never again were they hungry and they dined on pancakes and pies happily ever after.

## 9 An Indian Folk Tale:

### THE BARBER'S WIFE

There once was a barber who was so hopeless that when he cut people's hair he would snip bits of their ears. Of course, people stopped going to him and he became poorer and poorer. Finally his wife, who was as sharp as his razors, sent him off to beg at the king's palace.

Now it happened to be the king's birthday and he was in a very good mood. He asked the barber what he would like but the barber was so hopeless he couldn't think what to say. The king decided to give him a piece of land.

His wife was quite angry when she heard what had happened. "What good is the piece of land? We don't have a plough or even a spade. How will we clear it?" Finally the wife had a brilliant idea. She told her husband to copy everything that she did. They walked up and down the land, looking into the rabbit holes and poking the ground with their sticks. When anyone came past they sat on the ground and stared at the sky.

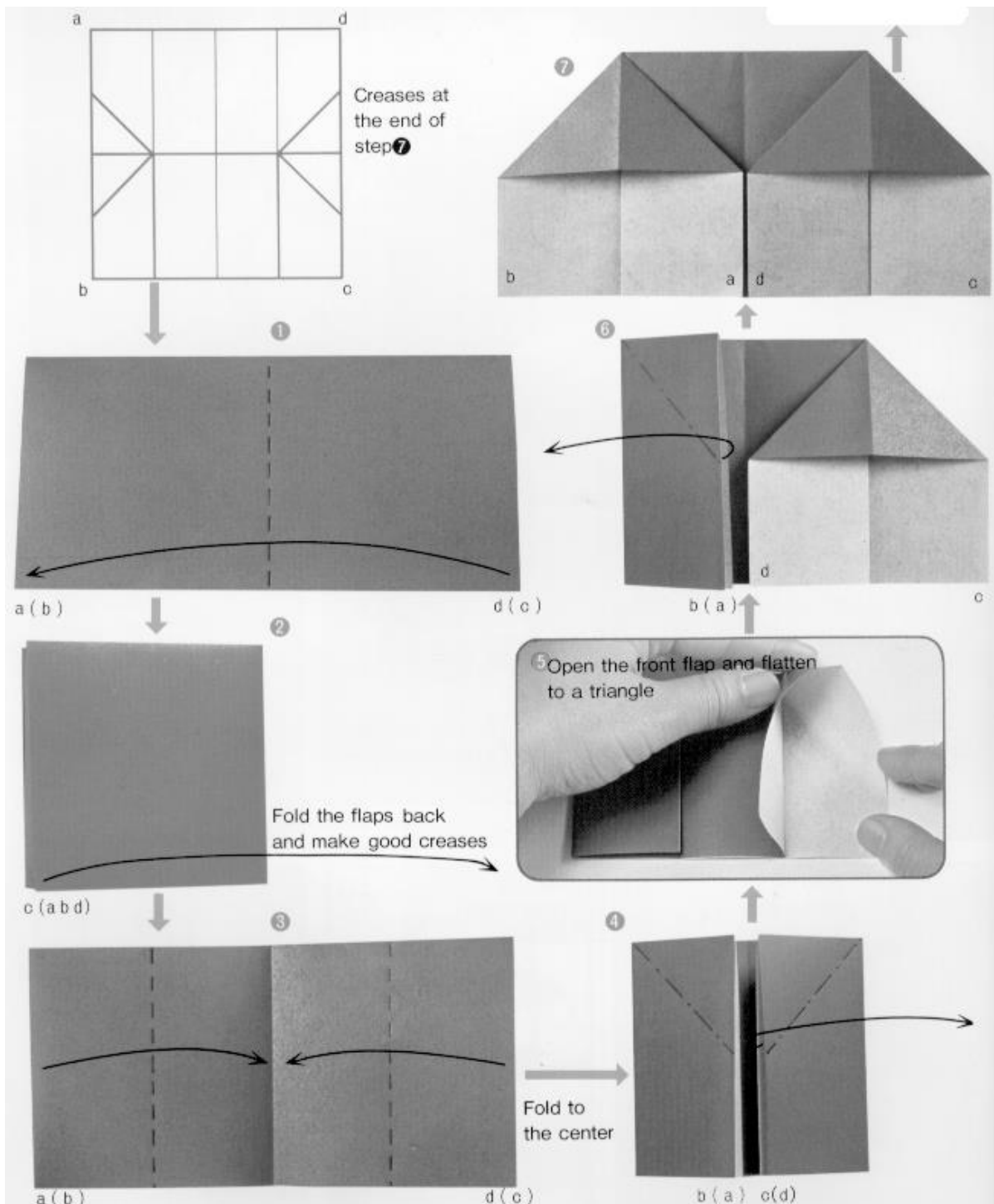
As luck would have it, there were seven robbers hiding nearby. They watched the barber and his wife and they grew more and more curious. Then the chief robber came over and started asking questions. The wife pretended she was trying to keep a secret but eventually told the robber that her grandfather had buried five pots of gold on the land but they did not know where the pots of gold were. The chief robber promised not to tell anyone the 'secret' he had heard.

When the barber and his wife came back to their land in the morning, they found it looking like a well-ploughed field. The robbers were exhausted and barely managed to crawl back into the woods.

The wife laughed all the way to the seed shop where she borrowed enough seed to sow the field. The corn grew and the harvest was huge. They kept enough for themselves and sold the rest for a great pot full of gold coins. "I told you there was gold in the ground!"

The barber and his wife worked hard on their land and they lived happily ever after.

# Origami House



(From Hideaki Sakata. 1984. *Origami*. Tokyo: Graph-Sha Ltd)

## LESSON 26: The Story of Ruth

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### AIM

To help learners grow in appreciation of people of other cultures and races through hearing the story of Ruth in the Old Testament. (9.1, 12.4.2)

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### OUTCOME

The Learners are familiar with figures in the Old Testament.

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### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1 **Introduction:** Say a poem.

If all the world's children  
wanted to play holding hands,  
they could happily make a bridge  
across many, many lands.

If all the world's children  
Sang a friendly welcome song,  
A happy sound would fill the air  
And there'd be friends everywhere.

*(Loosely based on a children's song from Mozambique)*

2 **The Story of Ruth:** Tell the following story and encourage the children to add actions where appropriate.

Naomi had a husband and two sons.

*(Show index finger and then two more fingers.)*

A terrible famine came on the land.

*(Rub tummy as if hungry.)*

They had to move to a country called Moab.

The people there were kind and welcoming.

*(Smile and nod.)*

Naomi's husband died and she was very sad. Naomi's sons married foreign girls.

They were Orpah and Ruth.

Orpah and Ruth both loved Naomi

and Naomi loved them dearly.

*(Hug self to indicate love.)*

Ten years later, both Naomi's sons died.

Now they were very poor.



### WHAT YOU NEED

- \* Paper, crayons, paints or pastels (4)
- \* Barley (or other grain) (6)
- \* Bible (7)



So when Naomi heard that the famine in her own country was over, she said, "I am going back to my family in Bethlehem. You should go back to your own land too."

*(Tap hands on knees to make walking sounds.)*

"We will go with you," said Ruth and Orpah. But Naomi said, "Stay here with your own people." But they insisted on following her. As they travelled along, Naomi was able to persuade Orpah to go back, but Ruth would not budge. She said, "You are my family now. We will go together. God will give us food and a place to live."

Everyone was excited to see Naomi return and Ruth was welcomed to her new country.

Farmers used to leave grain for the poor people to gather. Ruth went to the field of a man named Boaz and picked up grain.

*(Bend as if picking up barley.)*

Then she made bread for Naomi. God had led them to a place where they could get food but they still had no home.

Boaz saw Ruth gathering grain.

*(Shade eyes and look into the distance.)*

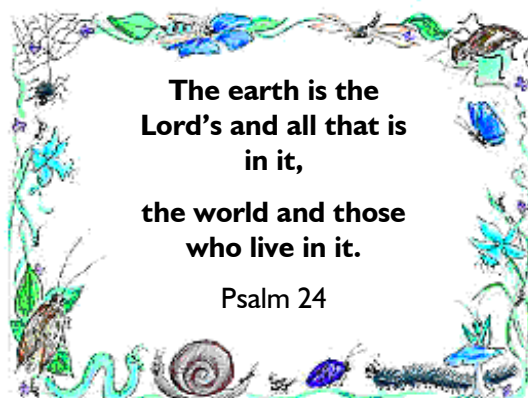
He asked, "Who is that woman? I don't know her." His friends told him who she was. Boaz thought Ruth was very kind, the way she looked after Naomi. He wanted a wife who was good and kind and he asked Naomi to marry him.

Ruth and Naomi moved into the big house on Boaz's land. They had a place to live and plenty of food. Boaz was a good husband and he loved Ruth very much. In time their happiness grew even greater when they had a baby son named Obed.

*(Rock baby in arms.)*

3 **Prayer:** Dear God, we pray for people near and far. Help us to welcome others just as Naomi and her family were welcomed in a foreign land. Amen.

4 **Art and Craft:** Write out a memory verse and make a frame for it. Encourage the children to decorate their frames using patterns or pictures that are in keeping with the verse. Here is an example.



## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 5 Let the children see in how many languages they can say '**Good morning**' or any other suitable greeting.
- 6 Ruth was gathering barley. Talk about **cereals**. Some people make bread from barley and some put it into soup.
- 7 Explain that Obed was an **ancestor of Jesus**. See Luke 3:23-28.



## LESSON 27: Caring for Others

### AIM

To give learners an opportunity to express care for the poor in a tangible way. (12.3.1)

### OUTCOME

Learners understand the need to care for the poor and less fortunate.



### WHAT YOU NEED

- \* Musical accompaniment or a tambourine (2)
- \* Bible (4)
- \* 🎵 *The More We Get Together* (8)
- \* Small box (9)

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 **Introduction:** Talk about feelings of happiness and sadness and let the children portray these feelings with their bodies.
- 2 **Tell the story** and then use the story to encourage creative dance.

It was a cold, cloudy and windy afternoon (*Children sway like trees in the wind*) and old Mr Hobo walked sadly to the next village. (*Walk slowly, sinking down with arms and legs closed into the body.*) He hoped to find some place warm to sleep for the night. He was already shivering and his jacket was so threadbare that the wind whistled right through it. (*Exaggerated shivering with arms clutched to self.*) He had to do a little dance every now and again just to keep warm. He hopped on one foot and then the other. (*Hop on one foot and then the other, with hands cupped to mouth.*)

By the time he got to the village, the sun was beginning to set (*Raise high and slowly sink down.*) and he could see lights twinkling in the windows. (*Open and shut hands in imitation of twinkling.*)

Maybe he would be lucky and find a sheltered bench in the park. He thought he would look for an old newspaper to use as a blanket. But it wasn't to be...

As he came to the first house, the door suddenly opened and Mrs Magoo came running out on tiptoe. (*Run on tiptoe with tiny steps*) "You foolish man! How can you walk around without a scarf in this weather? Take this one and put it on. It will keep you warm."

Mr Hobo had no time to say anything in reply before the door of the second house opened. Mr Dhlamini came striding out. (*Big, deliberate steps.*) "No sensible person goes for a walk without gloves! Put these on your cold, cold hands."

Miss Smith came running out of the next house carrying a coat. (*Little running steps*) "You'll catch a cold in this weather," she scolded him as she gave him the nice warm woolly coat.

Hearing all the commotion in the street, Mrs Buthelezi came skipping out. (*Everyone skips.*) She too had something to say, "Warm clothes are good and fine, but there is nothing like a cup of cocoa to warm you right through!" She handed him the cup of steaming cocoa.

Mrs Busy came bouncing out of her house. (*Hop on two feet like a bouncing ball.*) "You're just in time for dinner!" she called. "Come right in. Come right in." and she invited all the other villagers to join in.

As you can imagine, Mr Hobo could not believe what had happened to him. Such kindness he had never seen anywhere else. After dinner, they all joined hands and they skipped and



danced joyously. (*Everyone joins hands and skips eight times; faces the centre and does a series of bounces hopping from two feet to two feet; jump for joy; clap hands and repeat the dance sequence to lively happy music.*)

- 3 **Discuss** the people of the village. Discuss Mr Hobo's plight.
- 4 **From the Bible:** The generous widow [Mark 12:41-44] One day Jesus went into the Temple. He saw people putting money into the 'poor box'. Some rich people put in a great deal of money. Along came a very poor woman who put two coins into the box. Jesus said that the poor woman had put in more money than all the rest! She had put in all she had, while the others put in their spare money.
- 5 **Prayer:** Dear God, Help us to be generous and to give to those who have less than we have. Amen.
- 6 Let the children come up with **ideas to help the poor**. Children could donate candles or soap or canned foods which can be handed over to those who help the poor in squatter camps. Charity money could also be collected. Remind the children that we can also share our time and talents with others.

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## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 7 Tell **stories of saintly people** who have worked for the poor, for example, Mother Theresa of Calcutta, St Martin of Tours.
- 8 Teach the children the following **song** to the tune of *The More We Get Together*.  
The more we share with others,  
with others, with others,  
the more we share with others,  
the happier we'll be.
- 9 **Decorate a small box** with the words 'I care'. Children can be encouraged to put spare coins into it for the poor.