

Children & Young People's Talk

By Archie Bathgate

Isaiah 65 v 24: A God Who Provides

The PowerPoint presentation may be adapted according to the time you have available by removing slides or including your own visual aids.

Main Objectives

- To know that God loves us
- To recognise that God hears our prayers and to explore what prayer means.
- To practically pray to this God who loves us so much.
- To recognise that God not only hears our prayers but that he answers them and that he is the One who provides all our needs.
- To recognise that there are people who have less than us and that God cares about these people.

References

Key verse

Isaiah 65:24 - "It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will listen."

Story

- **Title** Helen Roseveare: What's In The Parcel?
- **Author(s)** Catherine Mackenzie
- **ISBN** 9781845503833
- **Publisher** Christian Focus Publications
- **Series** Little Lights



Powerpoint slides (each slide also has notes attached)

Slide 1: Title Slide

Slide 2: The Hot Water Bottle Story

Start by reading this story to the group. This is a true story about Helen Roseveare when she worked in the Congo as a doctor. A small book is also available to purchase separately if you feel it would work well for your group: Helen Roseveare: What's In The Parcel?

The Hot Water Bottle

At harvest time we celebrate the way that God looks after us and provides what we need. Sometimes he does this in very ordinary ways but at other times God does this in ways that we don't expect.

Helen Roseveare was a doctor. The hospital Helen worked in was right in the middle of the jungle in the Congo in central Africa. They had no electricity and were really far away from everywhere but Helen and the nurses did their best to help everyone who came to their hospital.

One night Helen had been helping to deliver a baby. In spite of everything they did, the mum passed away, leaving a brand new tiny baby. Even in Africa, it can become very cold at night and Helen was worried that the baby would become sick and die. They wrapped the baby up tightly in clothes to keep it warm and Helen asked the nurse to fetch a hot water bottle.

The nurse came back quickly and said that the very last hot water bottle had burst. There was no way to repair it and they were so far away from everywhere that they couldn't just go out and buy another one. Helen told the nurse to build up a big fire and to sit with the baby all night keeping it warm.

The next morning the baby was still alive but Helen knew that to keep it alive they needed a hot water bottle.

There were other children at the hospital whose parents had died that Helen and the nurses looked after and Helen liked to meet with them every day to chat with them and to pray with them. Helen told them about the little baby and the very last hot water bottle that had burst. When they were praying, one of the girls, Ruth, prayed, "Please, God, send us a hot water bottle. It'll be no



good tomorrow, the baby will be dead; so, please send it this afternoon." Then she added, " ...And while You are at it, would You please send a dolly for the little girl so she'll know You really love her?" Helen didn't know what to say. She just did not believe that God could do this. She knew that God could do anything but this just seemed impossible and unrealistic.

Halfway through the afternoon, while Helen was working in the hospital, someone told her that a car was waiting outside where she lived. By the time she got there the car had gone, but there on her front door was a large parcel! In all the time that Helen had been in Africa she had never received a parcel. It was from the Sunday school class that she used to teach in her home church. It was so exciting that she didn't want to open the parcel alone so she sent for the children to come and help her. Very carefully they pulled off the string, unfolded the paper, and opened the top of the box.

Helen put her hand in and pulled out ... lovely knitted jerseys. Straightaway she gave them out to the children. Then she pulled out ... bandages and medicines. They would be great for the patients. Next came a box of raisins and sultanas; she'd make a nice cake with them. Then she put her hand in again and pulled out ... a brand-new rubber, hot water bottle! Helen hadn't believed that God could send it but he had. Straightaway Ruth jumped forward and dug her hand right into the box. "If God has sent the bottle, He must have sent the dolly, too!" She rummaged right to the bottom of the box and pulled out a little, beautiful doll. "I knew that God would answer our prayer. Now the little girl will know that God loves her."

The parcel had been sent five months before by Helen's former Sunday School class; she had no idea why someone would think they needed a hot water bottle in a place as warm as Africa but she was glad that they sent it. Five months even before Ruth had prayed that morning God made sure that their prayers for a hot water bottle and a doll would be answered.

Slide 3: Verse

In the Bible, in Isaiah 65v24, it says, "even before you ask, I will answer." Maybe get one of the children to read the verse, or with older groups, ask them to find it in their bibles.

Slide 4: Discussion



Take this time to open up discussion with the group, depending on their ages. Talk about the story - did they like it? Start with simple questions like,

- What is Prayer?
- Can you ask God for anything?
- Do we still talk to God even though he already knows what we want?

Talk about the story:

- Why was Helen so surprised when God answered Ruth's prayer?
- Would they have been like Helen or Ruth? Why?

Slide 5 - Pause

If it's appropriate, take some time now to pray to the God who loves and hears our prayers, even before we speak them. This may work well in a group or individual setting, or in pairs. No one should be forced to pray, but just make a space to openly talk with God. You can talk about the relationship he wants to have with each one of us.

Slide 6 - DRC

Comfort International works in many countries in Africa, and one of those is the Democratic Republic of Congo, where this story took place! How much do you know about Congo?

Slide 7 - Quiz

Where is the Democratic Republic of Congo?

- A. Europe
- B. Asia
- C. Africa

Slide 8 - Answer

The answer is C. Africa! D. R. Congo is found right in the centre of Africa, and is bordered by other countries like South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania.

Slide 9 - Question

Which country has the biggest population?

- A. United Kingdom
- B. D. R. Congo
- C. Rwanda



Slide 10 - Answer

The answer is B - D. R. Congo - with around 90 million people living there. The UK has a population of around 67 million and Rwanda has a population of around 13 million. Rwanda is only a third of the size of Scotland (which has only 5.5 million people living in it), making it one of the most densely populated countries in Africa.

Slide 11 - languages

How many languages (and dialects) are spoken in D.R. Congo?

- A. 1
- B. 30
- C. 200

Slide 12 - Answer

Over 200 languages and dialects are spoken in D.R. Congo! There are 5 main languages, which are French, Kikongo (Kituba), Lingala, Swahili, and Tshiluba, as well as many other dialects. Can you say anything in another language?

Slide 13 - Animals

What kind of animals can you find in Congo?

Slide 14 - Answer

There are thousands of species of mammals, birds and fish found in D.R. Congo. From left, clockwise is lion, rare mountain gorilla, African elephant and Okapi.

Slide 15 - Comfort International in D. R. Congo

What are some of the things Comfort International does in D. R. Congo?

Congo is one of the poorest countries in the world and there are many people and children there who need help. Comfort International is trying to work with those who are hungry, sick, sad or in need to bring the hope and love of Jesus to their lives. You can see some of our projects on this slide.

From top right going clockwise:

1. Street Kids Rescue Project - some young people in Congo don't have families or homes, so Comfort gives them a safe place to live, meals to eat and a community to be safe in.



2. Children of Liberty - Congo can be dangerous as there is a war going on there. Sometimes even children get forced into this war. Comfort rescues these children, gives them a safe place to live and works to tell them of their value and worth to God.

3. Mums and babies - there are some Mums that need help to feed their babies and send them to school when they are grown up, so we have Mums' and Babies' groups for families that have had a difficult start to life.

4. This is the Central Hospital in Rusayo, in Congo. There are Congolese doctors and nurses working here, looking after mums and babies, just like Helen Roseveare, and looking after all the sick people that can't afford medical care. They are making sure that everyone in the area who needs medical care, gets it.

Slide 16 - your parcel

What would your group send to the children of D R Congo? Encourage them to think about their material needs, like food, toothbrushes, clothes, shoes, things that we take for granted, but also to show them they are loved - maybe a card or verse or painted picture? (Note - This is purely an exercise, unfortunately we are unable to deliver packages to Congo like this. If your group would like to contribute, please consider a financial donation instead.)

Slide 17 - Activities

If you have time use it to do a practical activity. For example:

- Make dolly & hot water bottle bunting and write the verse from Isaiah on them
- Cut out a dolly or hot water bottle shape and write the verse on it
- Hot water bottle prayer wall - stick prayer requests on using post-its
- Using a square of brown paper, fold the corners into the centre making a parcel shape. Write the verse or prayers in the middle. Then tie with string to make a parcel.

See the end of this document for templates.

Slide 18 - The End!

Thank you so much for listening. Asante Sana means thank you in Swahili, one of the main languages spoken in D.R. Congo.

For more information and to donate

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