

The Paper Bag Game

After the game

It's important to encourage players to talk about their experience after the game as it raises many issues for discussion.

The experience

How many groups managed to earn enough to stay alive? What did this experience show them about life in the shantytowns of India, being a member of a poor family, work skills, supply and demand or anything else?

The work

How did the groups organise their work? Would they have produced more bags if they had worked in a different way? Did the groups compete with each other or did any of them join forces? What were the effects of working in these ways?

The materials

Why are the bags made out of scrap paper? Where do the families get the paper? What other waste products can be re-used? Should we waste less and recycle more? If yes, how can we do so? What effect would introducing plastic bags have?

Power relations

Why are the shopkeepers so powerful? Who are their equivalents in our global society? Should we allow them to hold onto their power or should we try to challenge it? Why? How? Why do prices rise and fall? Would it be fairer if the workers received weekly wages rather than being paid per batch of paper bags? What does this show about the power within an organised system?

What is Christian Aid doing?

Christian Aid believes that everyone has a role to play in ending the scandal of mass poverty. The actions of campaigners have delivered real benefits to the world's poorest communities on issues such as debt and trade.

While the bag makers in Kolkata may seem a million miles from the arguments that rage over

the role of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the rules and regulations it lays down have a direct impact on the lives of poor communities worldwide.

At an international level, Christian Aid is calling upon bodies such as the WTO and the European Union to change the trading rules to make them fairer for poor

producers. At a local level, Christian Aid is supporting partners such as the Association for Development (AFD) in Delhi, and the Uttar Pradesh Rural Labour Education Group, which works directly with street and working children.

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Activity suggestion for RE lessons

1. Read Luke 10:25-37 (the Parable of the Good Samaritan).

2. Ask pupils to split into groups and act it out. Each group will need people to play the man who was robbed, a couple of thieves, a priest, a Levite, a Samaritan, an innkeeper and possibly a donkey!

3. After they have acted it out ask these questions and try to get the pupils to stay in role:

- How did the man feel when the people walked past?
- (How do we feel when we need help and people ignore us?)
- Why did the priest and Levite walk past?
- (Why do we so often ignore those who need help?)
- How did the man feel when a Samaritan helped him?
- Why did the Samaritan stop and help?

It's important for the pupils to realise that the man who was robbed was Jewish, and the Jews and the Samaritans really hated each other so it would have been extremely unusual for a Samaritan to stop and help a Jew.

4. Jesus said, 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. Split the pupils into groups and ask them to decide who Jesus meant by 'your neighbour'.

5. Now ask the groups to come up with one thing that they are going to do to try to help 'their neighbours'.

6. Explain how Christian Aid is working to improve the lives of poor communities around the world – some examples are included with this game (see overleaf).

For more information visit
www.christianaid.org.uk/learn
or www.globalgang.org.uk or
call **08700 787788** to order a free
copy of *Christian Aid Uncovered*
(F55), a 16-page booklet written
for young people.

What can we do now?

- Think fair trade: look out for fair-trade goods in shops and supermarkets – for example, Traidcraft goods or those with the Fairtrade Mark.
- Visit www.globalgang.org.uk to find out more about children in India and other developing countries.
- Visit www.globalmarch.org/campaigns to find more ideas for how you can campaign to improve the lives of working children worldwide.
- Become part of the Trade Justice Campaign. Christian Aid is part of the Trade Justice Movement, a group of organisations that have come together to call for change to the unjust rules that govern trade. Visit www.christianaid.org.uk/campaign or call **08700 787788** to order all you need to get started.
- Visit www.foe.co.uk/campaigns for facts and activities about recycling.