**Introduction**

Read Ephesians 3v14-21.

“Working together with our sister diocese has given Kagera people the opportunity to discover how God’s love is so great that it is beyond our imagination. It is only through this love that we may become the same before the Lord.” Bishop Aaron Kijanjali

Our diocese is linked with Kagera in Tanzania. Doing God’s work there is very similar in some ways to doing it anywhere in the world. But the practical ways of serving God in a country with great poverty, illiteracy and health problems look very different. This session looks at some of the ways God’s people are helping others in Kagera, and aims to show children that God is at work here and now, not just in the Bible.

More background on [http://www.kageradiocese.info](http://www.kageradiocese.info)

You might want to offer some African fruits for snacks (e.g. bananas, oranges and pineapples).

**Welcome (choose one)**

**WELCOME – KARIBU**

This is the Swahili word for Welcome, spoken by many people in Africa. Say it to every child and let them say it back to you.

Africa is a long way away, and some things for children are very different. A lot of people do not have enough money to feed their children nice meals. Today we are going to find out about a place in Africa called Kagera and how God loves the people there.

**ANIMALS OF AFRICA**

Have pictures of animals found in Tanzania (see below) or model animals if you have some.

Elephant, giraffe, wildebeest, hippo, buffalo, zebra, lion, hyena, cheetah, leopard can all be found in Tanzania.

There is a powerpoint of pictures you could use.

Tanzania is a country in Africa – it looks quite different from our country. It can be very hot and dry, but then some months it rains a lot. Today we are going to find out about a place in Tanzania called Kagera and how God loves the people there.

**TRAVELLING**

Who has been in a car? A train? A bus? A plane? A boat? Today we are going to find out about a place in Africa called Kagera – I wonder how you would get there. You could show Tanzania on a map and point out that there is sea in the way (how can you get across the sea?) and that it is a long way.

Jesus said

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
John 10v10

Paul writes
For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives.

Colossians 1v9

Prayer for the children
Lord, may our children begin to grasp the extent of your love for people, and appreciate that Christians can show your love through acts of love and service.

Amen

Word
In the Bible it says that God’s love is wide (stretch out arms), long (stretch arms vertically), high (stretch up) and deep (crouch low).
God loves everyone and he wants everyone to hear about Jesus and how to be his friend.
God also cares about how people live and he wants people in his church to be kind and help others. In Africa Christians are helping people by running schools and hospitals.
A lady called Helen from Suffolk took a bear called Edmund to see Kagera in Africa. Here are her pictures.
Watch the 2 powerpoints on Edmund’s travels – they were made by Helen Matter, our diocese schools advisor. Chat about what you see in the powerpoint.

Work it out (offer choices)

BASKET MAKING
www.youtube.com/watch?v=oKgDD9KxyQY – have a look at this girl making a very simple basket. Pre cut strips of paper – you might want to tape them together ready for weaving as well.
The women in the powerpoint were making baskets to sell. God’s people help them set up a business so they can make enough money to look after their families.

CLOTHES COLLAGE
The women in the powerpoint were wearing very brightly coloured clothes. Children can draw a person on card and stick on brightly coloured scraps of fabric as their clothes. (Use a template if you prefer – shape below). PVA glue works better than prittsticis for fabric.

MAP OF THE WORLD
Spread out the map of the world or use a globe. Point out some countries. Using post it notes put a heart or happy face on all the countries of the world – because God loves everyone in them.

HOSPITALS
God’s people are helping build hospitals in Africa, and looking after sick people. Have a selection of sick teddies etc and bandages, doctor’s kits to play with.

Worship
Draw the children together and pray for the people of Kagera.
What could we ask God?
(That the children will have enough to eat and be able to go to school. That everyone would hear about Jesus and become his friend. That doctors and nurses can make people better.)
Make the children’s suggestions into a prayer and all say ‘Amina’ at the end (Swahili for Amen)
Animals of Tanzania
For parents and children

Today we learnt about how God is working in Kagera in Tanzania.

In Tanzania the women and girls wear a square of cloth, a kanga, in many different ways. Have a look at this clip - www.youtube.com/watch?v=xw4Fl-9rlYA and see how useful a kanga can be. Can you try it out with a square of material?

Say a prayer together for the people of Kagera

(you can find out more at http://www.kageradiocese.info/)