

## KS2 Unit 4, Lesson 10: Christianity around the world

### LEARNING OUTCOME:

- Children will know that there are Christians in almost every country around the world, and that the numbers of Christians in different countries varies.
- Children will consider some of the things that Christians around the world might have in common as well as things that might be different.

**Previously,** pupils will have learned about some different Christian traditions in different parts of the world, for example in connection with Easter or Christmas celebrations. They will also have learned about Jesus' command to his followers to 'go and make disciples of all nations'.

**Vocabulary:** nation

### INTRODUCTION:

**Plus/minus/ interesting:** Show the picture of Christians in Ethiopia processing with a cross (without giving away what the picture is of). Ask children to look at the picture, then think of either a plus (positive), minus (negative) or interesting (something about the picture that interests them). Give a minute for children to think of their ideas, to share with a partner, and then to share with the class. Reveal to the children that this is a picture of Ethiopian Christians celebrating Easter.

Tell children that you are going to find out about the numbers of Christians in different countries around the world. Use an inflatable globe as a ball, and throw the ball out to the children. Whoever catches it must put their finger on the globe without looking, and say which country they have landed on. (If they land in the sea, they can have another go!) Then use the website 'operation world'

<http://www.operationworld.org/countries-alphabetically> to look up the country and find out how many Christians live there (this is given as a percentage-it could be explained simply to children that if it says 45%, it means 45 out of 100 people living in the country are Christians. Repeat for lots of different countries, and hopefully the children will see that nearly every country has some Christians in it, but that the number can vary a lot! For a contrast look at Yemen - 0.8% Christian compared to Brazil - 91% Christian.) N.B. - See note on Operation World at end of lesson plan.

Look at pictures of Christians from different parts of the worlds (see resources), and ask children in pairs to note any similarities or differences they notice. Discuss these as a class. For examples, Christians from different parts of the world may look different in dress, skin colour etc., and their church buildings may be different to those in the U.K., but children will notice that many of the churches contain crosses, and Christians pray and sing, just as they do in churches in the UK.

### ACTIVITY:

Give children coloured card and paper, and pictures of children in different national dress around the world. They each can make their own picture of a children to contribute to a display of 'Christians around the world'. The display could include things that are similar and different about Christians in different places around the world.

### PLENARY:

Ask children to think about Jesus' words to his disciples at the end of Matthew's gospel:

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28.19)

How do these words help to explain why there are Christians in nearly every country in the world?

**Note:** Operation World is an evangelical Christian organisation which aims to help Christians fulfil Jesus' 'great commission' (from Matthew 28.19 quoted above), to make disciples of all nations. To this end they encourage Christians to learn about and pray for all the nations of the world. Therefore, its country websites give general information about the countries, as well as ideas for Christians to pray about, and the percentages of Christians, and evangelical Christians in each country. You can read about their mission, vision and ethos under the 'about OW' tag.