



Reconcile for Refugee Children

Overview

Working with humanitarian aid agencies, Bible Society Lebanon is offering hope to refugee children through an interactive drama presentation about reconciliation and forgiveness, based on Bible stories. The presentation — called “Reconcile!” — is accompanied by the distribution of literature which paraphrases Bible stories about reconciliation.



The Need

Lebanon hosts over 1.5 million registered refugees, and humanitarian agencies are struggling to keep up with their basic needs. Entire generations are being born and brought up in confined camp facilities with very low hygiene and an absence of social and educational platforms. Children are being brought up amid hate, despair and vengeance. Mitigating this negative atmosphere, along with helping children to overcome their trauma, is a huge need.

Bible Society has been approached by several humanitarian agencies to assist by entertaining children in the camps, using hopeful and positive strategies as well as appropriate trauma healing techniques. The Bible, the book of hope, will be the source of these presentations in the camps.

1.5m

Syrian refugees along with 210,000 Palestinian refugees are taking refuge in Lebanon

49%

of Syrian refugee families suffer from food insecurity.

60%

of Syrian refugee families live in overcrowded, endangered, or substandard housing

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

Ephesians 4:32, NIV

Goals

The goal of this project is to create a positive atmosphere of reconciliation among refugee children based on the creative presentation of Bible Stories. In addition to this, Bible literature on reconciliation and forgiveness will be distributed in parallel with the performances. The program also distributes the Arabic Peace and Justice Bible to refugee camp leaders and family heads. The objective is to help children overcome their trauma through a healing process inspired by the Bible.

At the start of 2024, the team will spend January preparing the presentation and printing portions of Scripture to share. Throughout the remainder of 2024, they will visit camps and present their programs, sharing portions of the Bible with 100 children at each visit.

Impact

This project aims to impact 16,000 people, including 15,000 children who will be reached by creative programs focused on reconciliation and forgiveness, along with resources with Bible stories on the same topics. Around 1,000 camp leaders and heads of families will be offered copies of the Arabic Peace & Justice Bible.

From January to September 2023, 4,317 children were reached with the creative programs on reconciliation, healing, and forgiveness. They received 4,254 portions from the Bible about reconciliation, healing, and forgiveness; 283 leaders and heads of families received copies of the Arabic Bibles.

The impact of this project will be seen in the changed behaviour of underprivileged children, in a positive atmosphere in refugee campsites, and in further opportunities to run the creative program. Another area of impact will be seen among the camp leaders and heads of families, who come to understand the Christian and biblical values of peace and social justice.

Testimonies

"God is always with us to strengthen us in difficult times and never abandons us." — Elias, 10 years old, about the play "Elias the Prophet"

"Jesus is the one who can fill my heart with constant joy and love." — Shahd, 8 years old, about the play "Empty Hero"

"When unpleasant things happen in our lives, they restrict us like this handcuff, but when we ask God to help us, we will get rid of these problems." — Mustafa, 9 years old, about the trick "The Handcuff Escape"

"Hurtful words destroy people and hurt us. But beautiful words build and sow love in our hearts and those around us." — Aliya, 11 years old, about the trick "The Rose Bouquet"

Prayer Needs

- Pray for the children growing up in the unacceptable conditions of these camps.
- Pray for the leaders, that they would facilitate this program and willingly receive the Arabic Peace & Justice Bible.
- Pray that Bible Society's program will help heal the children's wounds of trauma.