

Sami and the ultimate Christmas Gift

featuring ideas,
drama and talk
outlines for
schools and
churches this
Christmas



Positive, lasting change for vulnerable children and young people – that's our passion, our history, our reason for being.

Contents

- Page 2 — How to use this resource**
- Page 3 — Set the scene on the screen**
- Page 4 — Talk 1: The Gift of Kindness**
- Page 5 — Talk 2: The Miracle of Giving**
- Page 6 — Drama: What to give the person who has everything for Christmas**
- Page 8 — Assembly/Youth Club Talk Crib Service/Children's Talk**
- Page 9 — Toy/Family Service Talk**
- Page 10 — Fundraising ideas for Churches, schools, children and families**
- Page 12 — Ways you can help Spurgeons**

How to use this resource

Thank you for requesting the Spurgeons 2010 Christmas Resource. This year we are focusing on Spurgeons Academy, our school in Kenya that provides education and life-changing opportunities to over 400 children living in Kibera, one of Africa's largest slums. Many of the children we educate have lost one or both parents to AIDS (you can find out more about Spurgeons Academy and the wider work of Spurgeons at www.spurgeonschristmas.org).

Sami and the Ultimate Christmas Gift offers a unique opportunity to see the talented children and staff at Spurgeons Academy in action and meet a remarkable boy called Sami. In our story, he's overheard that a baby King has been born and now he wants to find him and give this King his best gift. Sami soon learns who this King is and how he can give him the Ultimate Christmas Gift.

One of the ideas behind *Sami and the Ultimate Christmas Gift* is to help us think afresh about why we give and who we are giving to at Christmas.

Many of us give because we love someone and we want to express that love by giving a gift we think they will really appreciate and treasure.

Then there are those we feel an obligation to give to every year. A relative or someone we know gives us a present and we feel obliged to give in return.

But this Christmas, we hope our resources will inspire people of all ages to go further and give in surprising, selfless ways to support vulnerable children who will never be able to return the favour. We hope you'll find it special, rewarding and even a privilege to be able to give this way. Indeed, it's the way God gives to us every day of our lives.

In addition to Sami's enchanting story on the enclosed DVD, this resource contains several different talk outlines, which you can easily adapt and use during a Toy or Crib Service, a school assembly or a Christmas Carol or Family Service. Feel free to adapt the talks to suit your requirements.

Extra Ideas

You'll find more ideas in this resource to help you prepare your service or school assembly featuring *Sami and the Ultimate Christmas Gift*. These include a drama sketch and some fun activities to help raise awareness and funds to support our work.

You can also find additional resources at www.spurgeonschristmas.org. We will add more downloadable resources in the months leading up to Christmas, so please remember to make regular visits to the site.

Whatever you decide to do, we hope our Christmas resources will inspire you to encourage others to give the Ultimate Christmas Gift and support Spurgeons' work in Africa and here in the UK this Christmas.

So let's begin...



Set the scene on the screen

The following talks should ideally be used in the context of showing the DVD, *Sami and the Ultimate Christmas Gift*.

The DVD portrays a unique take on the Christmas story through the eyes of Sami, a child living in the slums of Kibera, Kenya; it also introduces Spurgeons Academy and the work being done to help extremely vulnerable children escape from poverty and discover a brighter future.

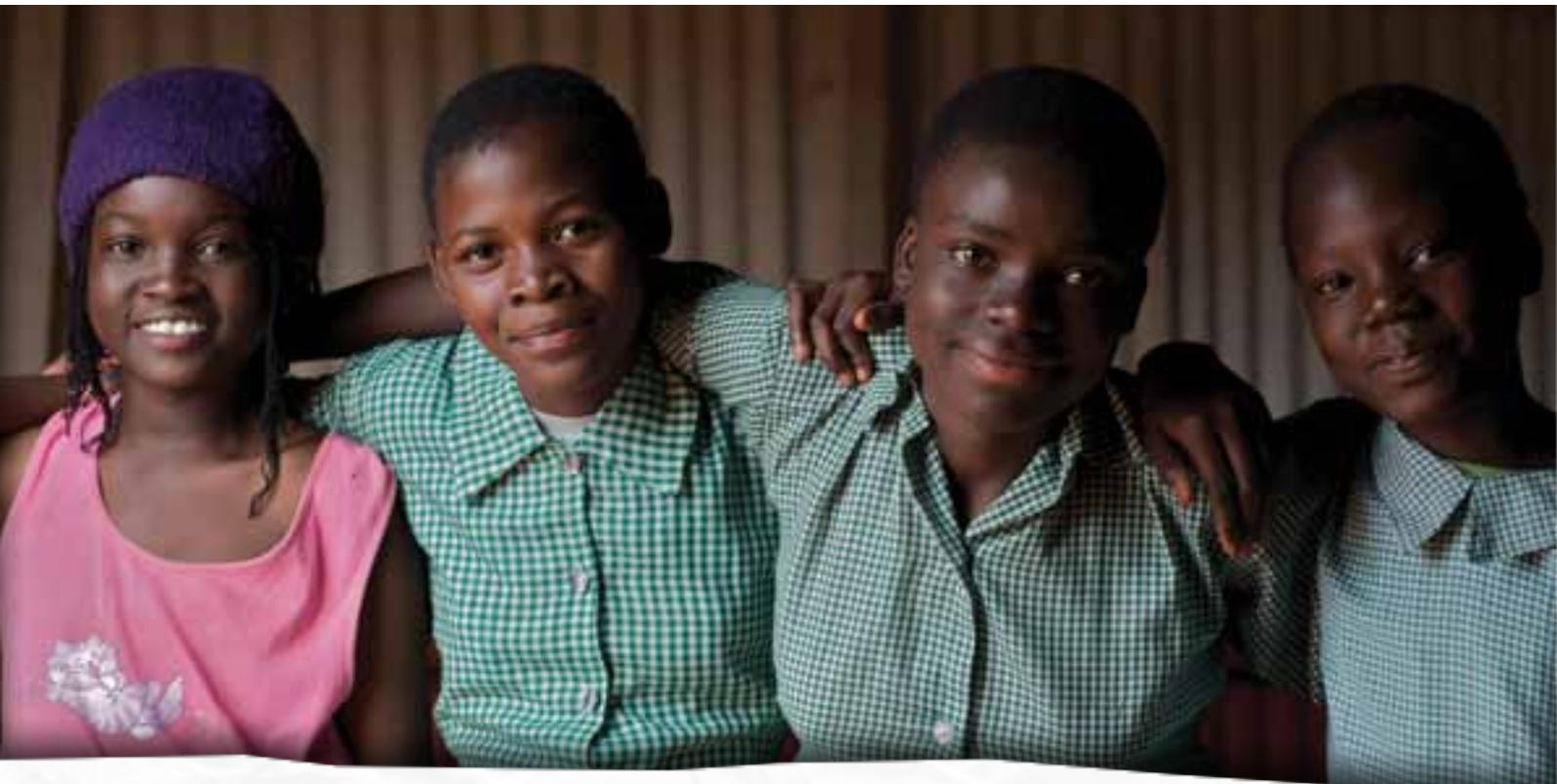
Showing the DVD will provide you with a strong foundation so that you can build the rest of the service around its content and underlying themes of giving.

If you do not have access to a DVD, you can tell Sami's story using the script outline and images that are available for download at www.spurgeonschristmas.org.

These talk outlines offer suggested ways to bring out some of the key thoughts and ideas behind the film.

‘It is not **how much** we have, but how much we **enjoy**, that makes **happiness**.’

Charles Haddon Spurgeon



The Ultimate Christmas Talk 1: The Gift of Kindness

Introduction: Show video, *Sami and the Ultimate Christmas Gift*

'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.' 2 Corinthians 8:9 NIV.

When was the last time someone was kind to you? Maybe someone made breakfast for you today? Or just gave you a hug?

Kindness is a powerful thing. Today we are going to see just how powerful kindness in action can be. We are also going to think about people for whom life is not often kind. Comedian and writer Stephen Fry, speaking to a group of school children last year said that of all the famous, rich, successful, powerful people he had ever met, "there is only one thing that you truly remember about any of them. It's not how talented they are, how clever they are, how knowledgeable, attractive, famous, rich or how powerful they are. There's only one thing in the end that matters – a small thing, and that's how kind they are. Kind people are the kings and queens of the world, whoever, whatever, and wherever they are".

You may want to explore some or all of the following points:

- 1) Kindness changes lives. The kindness of God changes our lives through the gift of His only Son Jesus (John 3:16). In the video, we saw the kindness of a foster mother called Rose, who took in a young boy called Sami. She not only told Sami about the kindness and gift of Jesus, she demonstrated God's kindness and love to this vulnerable child in many different ways.
- 2) Kindness changes people. 'For His loving kindness is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord is everlasting.' Psalm 117:2, NIV. Jesus showed God's kindness to us and in return we should be willing to show this kindness to others. Spurgeons is showing this kindness by helping children in projects like Spurgeons Academy, providing a safe environment where children can learn and develop skills for

the future. The school is open for 12 hours a day, and also provides a daily meal – often the only proper meal that many of the pupils receive each day.

- 3) Kindness happens all the time. It's something that you probably give without even knowing it. Listening when you don't have to. Helping when you are too tired to help. Making someone laugh when you don't feel like laughing. Taking a moment to talk to the checkout person in the supermarket to find out how his or her day is going. Little things no one knows you did. But you know who does notice? Jesus notices.

'When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me – you did it to me.'

Matthew 25:38-40, The Message.

As a wise man once said, "If you would win the world, melt it, do not hammer it". So as we leave here today, let's be thankful and celebrate the power of God's kindness in our lives. May we use the gifts that God has given us to bring fresh light and hope into the world. Perhaps we will do this by helping someone in need in our community, or making a donation to Spurgeons to help children like Sami. Or maybe it will be by deciding to sponsor a child like Sami through Spurgeons – to bring kindness into his life every day. Whatever you decide, God is sure to bless the kindness that you show.

Suggested closing prayer: Dear Father, thank you for all the ways you have been kind to us through our lives. Please help us to remember people who have been kind to us. Help us think of ways that we can be kind to children like Sami in Kibera who are crying out for our generosity and love this Christmas. In Jesus' name, Amen.



The Ultimate Christmas Talk 2: The Miracle of Giving

Introduction: Show video, *Sami and the Ultimate Christmas Gift*

‘For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.’ 2 Corinthians 8:9 NIV.

At Christmas we remember the ultimate miracle of giving. God gave us His precious Son to bring freedom and peace and to save us from the cruelty and danger that was in the world because mankind had turned his heart to evil. We find God’s special gift, the baby Jesus, not in a Palace or Temple but in a stable. Because although this baby was a King and a Priest, He came for those who knew they were poor and in need, like Sami and the children of Kibera who we’ve just seen in the video.

So how do we respond to this incredible generosity? John MacArthur in his book, *1 Corinthians*, puts it this way, ‘Generosity is impossible apart from our love of God and of His people. But with such love, generosity not only is possible but inevitable’.

In other words, we demonstrate our love for God by giving. Simple really. So how do we give? You may want to explore some or all of the following points:



1) We may find we have something spare that someone else really needs. Perhaps some clothes that your children have out-grown. It may be an encouraging book to cheer someone up, or the offer to pray for someone when they feel unable to pray.

- 2) In order to give something, you have to find someone who needs something. What does this actually mean? Briefly explore different types of need – hunger, lack of education, lack of a parent or a home – things that are experienced by children every day in the slums of Kibera.
- 3) Sometimes we need to give up things for others. Talk about how we might give up time to help someone or to support a fundraising event for children like Sami. How we could give up something we like for a week or a month, like pudding or crisps, and give the money we save to help the children at Spurgeons.
- 4) Jesus knows when we give. He knows that we do it for Him. When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?’ Then the King will say, ‘I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me – you did it to me.’ Matthew 25:38-40, The Message.

So as we leave here today, let’s celebrate Jesus, the Son of God who gave everything for us. Let’s use the resources we have to bring light into this world by giving a special gift to Spurgeons this Christmas to help children like Sami.

Suggested closing prayer: Dear Father, thank you for everything you have given us – your love, your mercy, your grace, your forgiveness, and your Son Jesus. Please help us in these moments now to listen to you about things that you would like us to give, or even give up for you. Help us think of ways that we can give to children like Sami who are crying out for our generosity and love this Christmas. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

What to give the person who

Get some young people involved and have some fun with this drama – a TV panel show with a spin.

A simple setting: a presenter stands stage left. There are 3 chairs and a table set up on stage right. The table could have a cloth, a water jug and glasses; perhaps some pretend microphones, etc. giving the impression of a TV panel game in the manner of Q.I. or similar. Male or Female can play each character – the names can simply be adjusted to fit gender (Stephen/Stephanie, Henry/Henrietta, Simon/Simone).

Ideally, play some cheesy Game Show music to introduce the drama.

CHARACTERS:

- Stephanie/Stephen Fryup
- Henry/Henrietta Dungbeetle-Whistdrive
- Wok Gone
- Simon/Simone Broadbanddigibox
- Angel

SF: Hello I'm Stephen Fryup; welcome to this week's Christmas edition of *What to give the person who has everything*.

Our regular panellists are here, Henry Dungbeetle-Whistdrive from the style magazine, *Vague*, Wok Gone, our Chinese cooking and makeover expert, and from the world of the arts, Simone Broadbanddigibox.

The rules are simple; A guest judge will challenge the panel to suggest what he or she would *give the person who has everything*. The panel wins if it can guess correctly what gift the Judge has written down in his special envelope.

So far in this series, we've explored what to buy a City Banker – Wok, your Special Fried Rice piggy bank sculpture was inspired. And just last week the challenge of what to buy a premiership footballer was barged off the ball when Henry and Simon combined to suggest a diamond-encrusted ego transporter. Marvellous stuff.

Now, please welcome our guest judge for the evening!

[APPLAUSE, ANGEL ENTERS AND STANDS NEXT TO SF, CARRYING A LARGE ENVELOPE]

Hello, and you are...?

Angel: Islington.

Islington. And correct me if I'm wrong, but you are an Angel, are you not?

Angel: I am indeed.

SF: You are the Angel Islington. [ANGEL NODS] Right, let's play. Islington you have written down our celebrity's ideal gift in that envelope, correct? [ANGEL NODS]. Please reveal the subject of tonight's *What to give the person who has everything*.

Angel: Tonight, Stephen, I challenge the panel to come up with what to give... God.

SF: [LOOKS TO PANEL] Start us off, Henry.

Henry: Well this is a toughie. I'm thinking God might be a tad tricky to buy for. Probably very busy, not much time for hobbies, maybe a bit of a history buff, observes all the latest trends and fashions. So, I'm thinking spices, ointments, some small, tasteful yet dazzlingly symbolic keepsakes, am I warm?

Angel: Well it's the kind of gift that *has* been offered before.

Henry: Ah, by tasteful style experts that our magazine would endorse, I expect.

Angel: No, by three blokes on camels.

Wok: OK, then clothing. Maybe God could throw out that old winter wardrobe and go for something fresh and vibrant. I'm tippy-toeing around the latest collections and I'm seeing coats, many colours, perhaps something dreamy... a dream coat of many colours, if you will?

Angel: No.

Simon: A box set of Friends?

Angel: No.

Wok: You're not liking the coat I can tell – even though it would be *fabulous* – how about some hand-thrown noodles shaped like the cedars of Lebanon and spiralled in with some delicious rare sea urchins?

Angel: Nope.

Simon: A gentleman's briefcase containing a monogrammed wallet, a set of driving gloves and a set of keys that whistle so you can never lose them?

Angel: Nah.

Simon: A chance to meet the cast of Dr Who.

Angel: Tennant or Smith?

Simon: Smith

Angel: No.

Simon: Tennant then.

Angel: [PAUSES] Nah.

has everything for Christmas

Simon: Doh! OK then, technology, a hoverboard, a voice-activated laptop, every book ever written in audio format – including all versions of the Bible, Blu-ray versions of the director's cut of The Lord Of The Rings trilogy, box sets of Hollyoaks, Beverly Hills 90210 and the best of ITV2. Actually the last one's not a box set.

Angel: Noooooo.

Simon: A limited edition iPod

Angel: What?

Simon: Pod... iPod

Angel: No.

Wok: Ooh, what about this: something so soft that it feels like a nightingale's tear dropping on your cheek. Something that you can snuggle into on a winter's night, or throw on for a summer evening stroll, something so yummy it feels like you're bathing in a marshmallow tub.

Angel: Go on...

Wok: Something that is so light it is like wearing a cloud; so stylish it will turn heads on any sun-dappled plaza; so *now* but so *then* that it transcends fashion. I'm talking about... a cashmere jumper.

Angel: [SWALLOWS] Colour?

Wok: [PAUSES, LEANS FORWARD, THEN IN A WHISPER] Lilac.

[THERE IS A BRIEF PAUSE THEN SF BREAKS THE REVERIE]

SF: Oh dear panel you are struggling with this one. Try to raise your sights, this is for God you know. Step it up in the last few rounds, Simon, raise the bar.

Simon: A glimpse into space and time on a trip round the universe.

Angel: Just the one universe?

Simon: No, *all* of them.

Angel: [RAISES EYEBROWS] You think?

Henry: A timepiece so stunning that when it ticks, it ticks *all* the boxes.

Angel: God has more than enough time – in fact, the whole of time and space is essentially the front lawn. You should see the back.

Henry: El Dorado! The city of gold, hidden for centuries...

Angel: Well, in the New Jerusalem we have planning permission for gold streets, so in comparison, El Dorado is well, per-retty chav.

Wok: Atlantis! The underwater kingdom that exists in legend populated by a wise, peace loving, and presumably quite fishy, race of people.

Angel: All the oceans, mountains, skies, animals, etcetera etcetera – all sorted early on in Genesis mate, nice idea but a few millennia too late.

H/S/W: World Peace! England wins the World Cup!
Good reception for Channel 5!

[THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER AND SHAKE THEIR HEADS / LAUGH / RAISE THEIR EYEBROWS, KNOWING THESE ARE IMPOSSIBLE DREAMS]

SF: Seriously, is this the best we can do?

Wok: I've got it! The answer is right in front of us all the time!

SF: What – give God an Angel?

Wok: No! I mean the ultimate Christmas gift for God is surely to give the one thing that we all have.

SF: What's that?

Wok: Ourselves! I think that the gift to give God at Christmas is myself!

Simon: Yes! That's brilliant, so simple...

[THINKS FOR A MOMENT]

yet so hard...

Henry: So, I give myself to God. My whole being, my thoughts, my fears, my hopes, my dreams, my failures, my unspoken prayers, my humanity... that's amazing.

Wok: Yes, and God would then have a gift that is unique, because we are all unique, a gift that He can give back to the world to make it more, well, like Heaven.

SF: So panel is that your final answer? Your Christmas gift to the person who has everything is yourselves?

H/S/W: YES! Final answer!

SF: Islington, please will you open the envelope and read out what would be the ultimate gift to give God.

[ANGEL OPENS THE ENVELOPE AND PULLS OUT A PIECE OF PAPER]

Angel: [SMILES] Yes, I knew this would go down well, as soon as it came up I thought, 'Well done, these humans are discovering some taste at last', so well done panel.

[HOLDS UP THE PAPER]

It's the cashmere jumper... in lilac!

SF: And on that bombshell, it's goodnight from us all.
Goodnight!

[FADE UP CHEESY MUSIC PANEL TALK AMONGST THEMSELVES, SF TALKS TO ANGEL ISLINGTON AS THEY WALK OFF STAGE]

Script © Steve Bassett

The Ultimate School Assembly/Youth Club Talk

(Under 11 years)

Introduction: Show video, *Sami and the Ultimate Christmas Gift*

'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.' 2 Corinthians 8:9 NIV.

- 1) Display an image of the top ten predicted Christmas presents for 2010 and/or ask some of the children what gift they would most like for Christmas. Talk about who wants what present and how much they think each present costs.
- 2) Ask them if they can remember what Sami's toy was. When they get the answer, ask them what they think it was made of? Did they notice if he had any other toys?
- 3) Ask them why they think children like Sami may only have one toy that is made by hand from bits of rubbish. Ask them what they think it would be like to be a child in Kibera.
- 4) Show a picture of the Nativity scene. At Christmas we remember God stepping into a broken and suffering world. We give thanks to God giving us His best, His one and only Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus came to help us and children like Sami. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14, NIV.

Ask the children what they think the place was like where Jesus was born?

- 5) Produce a wrapped Christmas present and ask the children why we give presents. Answer – to remember that God gave us His best present of all – Jesus. Jesus was a child like us; He loves us and will help us when we ask Him.
- 6) At this point:
 - a. Ask the children to think about ways that as a school, group or as an individual they can do something or give something to Spurgeons to help children like Sami. Perhaps they could bring one toy or one present that could be sold at a Church/school raffle or Nearly New sale to raise money for Spurgeons.
 - b. Let the children know more about how to have a relationship with Jesus and/or invite them to other events/Christmas services.

Thank the children for asking and answering all the questions.

Suggested closing prayer: Dear Father, thank you for your love, for everything you have given us and for giving us your wonderful Son, Jesus. Please help us to remember Sami and children like him living in Kibera as we enjoy this Christmas with those we love. Help us to think of ways we can enjoy helping too. In Jesus' name, Amen.

The Ultimate Crib Service/Children's Talk

Introduction: Show video, *Sami and the Ultimate Christmas Gift*.

'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.' 2 Corinthians 8:9 NIV.

This is a very simple idea that should work well with little children or it could just be a short thought at the start of a bigger service that still has a sermon to come. It will require a big Christmas bag/sack full of Christmas presents. The bag will need to have a label on it saying, **Presents from God**.

Ask the children:

- 1) Who likes presents?
- 2) Say, "I've got a bag of presents here". Bring out the big bag and ask who would like to help read the labels on them?
- 3) Volunteers pick a present and read out the label.

Each box features a word on a label that reminds us of the gifts that God has given us through Jesus' birth.

Start with the word Jesus, and then include other words relating to Christmas like love, hope, peace, joy, Good News, help, freedom etc. You could then expand on

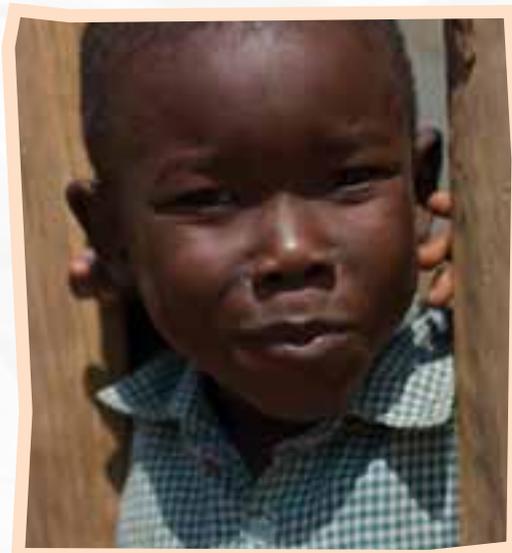
the words as little or as much as you like. You end up with a pile of presents and an empty sack.

'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' Isaiah 9:6, NIV.

- 4) Shake the sack and explain that on Christmas Day when the sack is empty it's because all the presents have been given out. Then go on to say that the gifts God gives never run out – God always gives good gifts to His children, and as we give ourselves to Him so He blesses us and gives us the gifts we need to be more like Him.
- 5) At this point you could: Ask the children to think about ways that as a school, group or individual they could do something or give something to Spurgeons to help children like Sami. Perhaps they could bring one toy or one present that could be sold at a Church/school Nearly New sale to raise money for Spurgeons.
- 6) Let the children know more about how to have a relationship with Jesus and/or invite them to other events/Christmas services.

Thank the children for asking and answering all the questions.

Suggested closing prayer: Dear Father, thank you for your love, for everything you have given us and for giving us your wonderful Son Jesus. Please help us to remember Sami and children like him as we enjoy this Christmas with those we love. Help us to think of ways we can enjoy helping too. In Jesus' name, Amen.





The Ultimate Toy/Family Service Talk

Introduction: Show video, *Sami and the Ultimate Christmas Gift*

'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.' 2 Corinthians 8:9 NIV.

- 1) Show a picture of what Bethlehem may have been like in Jesus' day. Words then come up on a PowerPoint slide. It was a poor, forgotten, difficult place to live.
- 2) Picture of Kibera. Words come up on a PowerPoint slide: It is a poor, forgotten, difficult place to live.
- 3) Picture of Manger with baby in it. Words: Why did Jesus choose to be born in Bethlehem?
- 4) Words from Matthew 1 and 2, Luke 1 and 2 on PowerPoint slides – God with us, forgiveness, hope, Good News, great joy. Jesus came to earth to give all these things because He loves us and He wanted to help us.

'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' Isaiah 9:6, NIV.

- 5) PowerPoint slides: Why are there places like Kibera? Selfishness, injustice, poverty, lack of resources.
- 6) Picture of smiling Sami. Many people in Kibera love Jesus and could teach us a lot about faith and love but they need our practical help as well.
- 7) PowerPoint slide – What does Jesus want us to do?
 - a. Let people know how much Jesus loves them.

- b. Care practically. As a church, we are committed to supporting Spurgeons this Christmas. Here are some examples of the difference our gifts can make to children like Sami:
 - £25** could feed 12 children a nutritious daily meal for a month.
 - £50** could pay for essential books and resources for a class.
 - £100** could clothe a class with school uniforms.

'Then those 'sheep' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me – you did it to me.' Matthew 25:37-40, The Message.

Conclusion: Jesus came to a poor, forgotten and difficult place to live because He loves people like Sami and He loves us. Let's ask Him what each of us can do to support Spurgeons as they help vulnerable children around the world discover a better future.

Suggested closing prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, thank you that you chose to be born in a poor, forgotten place to help people who are often poor and forgotten. Help us to remember what you did for us and to share what we have with those who are hungry, lonely, afraid or forgotten this Christmas. In Your precious name. Amen.



Fundraising Ideas

Have fun raising funds for Sami and his friends

When you get to know Sami and the children of Kibera, the thing that really stands out is their incredible resourcefulness. They have to make something out of nothing – a meal from a few beans, a toy car from bits of wire and bottle tops. Nothing goes to waste.

As you think of ways to help Sami and his friends, we want to encourage your creativity and inventiveness. Whether you are giving your time, giving your talents, singing or walking or making or baking, have fun and be creative. This year, please make your Christmas more joyful by simply giving and supporting the vital work of Spurgeons.

You can make an amazing difference to the lives of Kibera's slum children:

A gift of **£25** could pay for 12 children at Spurgeons Academy to be fed a daily nutritious meal for a month.

A gift of **£50** could pay for essential books and resources for a class at the school.

A gift of **£100** could clothe a class of pupils with school uniforms.

A commitment of **£18 per month** will sponsor a child's education and give them a chance of a brighter, better future.

See www.spurgeons.org/sponsor-a-child

Ultimate Fundraising ideas: For Churches and schools

Recycle a Gift for Spurgeons

Everyone gets a gift at Christmas they appreciate but might not use. Why not collect them at your school or church and either raffle them or price them up for others to buy? You could sell tea and cakes for 50p each as well.

Give the Gift of You! Time and Treats Auction

Rather than giving presents, you donate time, skills or special treats to attract bids.

Popular promises could include:

- ★ Baby-sitting
- ★ Car washing
- ★ Ironing
- ★ Guitar lessons
- ★ Computer help
- ★ Gardening
- ★ Painting and decorating
- ★ Use of a holiday home
- ★ Cooking a meal

The list really is endless. Everyone can do something.

Be An Apprentice for a Day!

Invite a group of young people to be an 'Apprentice'. Invite 'investors' in your church to give each of them £5 or £10 and task them with making or sourcing things to sell at a Christmas Fayre or stall at a Christmas Coffee Morning.

Just for fun – Awful Christmas Tie or Jumper Competition

This is a simple activity. Everyone is encouraged to pay for the privilege of wearing a truly awful tie or jumper. The person who raises the most money for Spurgeons gets a small prize.

Recycle, get involved and give other ideas to help Spurgeons

- ★ Bring and Buy Sale
- ★ Talent show, Quizzes – Trivial pursuit, local knowledge, All our yesterdays, Pop quiz
- ★ Non Uniform Day – Bring a £1 and wear what you want
- ★ Dress for Dinner Day – Bring a £1 and dress for dinner
- ★ Wear a Colour e.g. yellow or red – Bring a £1 and wear a colour



Ultimate Fundraising ideas: For families

Recycle a Book Christmas Tea Party

Invite friends and neighbours over for tea and cakes. Ask everybody to bring good used paperbacks to be sold for 50p or £1 each. You could also charge a small entrance fee.

Just for fun – Fancy Dress Football

Get some families together and play a fancy dress football match. Pick a theme that is going to encourage people to join in e.g. country and western, black and white, pirates. A bucket collection during the game should help if you are not able to charge an entrance fee.

Recycle, get involved and give – other ideas to help Spurgeons

- ★ Garage sale
- ★ Car boot sale
- ★ Collect your spare change for a month
- ★ Sponsored board games challenge
- ★ Sponsored walk or bike ride

Ultimate Fundraising ideas: For children

Sami and Friends Christmas Stable Party

Invite children and parents to a tea party to help Sami and his friends. Charge £3 entrance fee or family entry for £5. Sell tea, coffee and cakes or cookies for 50p each. Come dressed as a character from the nativity. Have fun with a 'Best dressed shepherd, Angel, etc competition'. Enjoy Christmas related party games, including 'Hunt the Present/Find the Star', Musical Statues (using Christmas Carols), and the Ultimate Christmas Quiz (available in the Activity Book – order online at www.spurgeonschristmas.org).

Get involved and give other ideas to help Spurgeons

- ★ Pizza night
- ★ Disco
- ★ Make and Bake Cookie sale – make simple cookies at home and sell them
- ★ Sponsored car wash
- ★ Carol singing

Spurgeons started with a very generous gift!

Our founder, Charles Haddon Spurgeon was an influential 19th Century Baptist preacher. He challenged his church, The Metropolitan Tabernacle, London, to pray, to give generously, and to show their 'love of truth by truthful love'. But when a widow, Anne Hillyard, offered him £20,000 to set up a home for fatherless children, he was staggered. It was the equivalent of £1.2 million today! Her gift inspired others to contribute to the various houses for the boys and girls and set the foundations in place for the work of Spurgeons today.

The orphanages continued their work up until 1979. Since then the work of Spurgeons has diversified to respond to the current needs of society. In the last 30 years, we have set up projects to support children, young people and families in need. We now have numerous projects across the UK as well as in Kenya, Uganda and Eastern Europe.

Ways you can help Spurgeons:

Pray

We believe prayer matters. Prayer changes difficult situations and changes our response to them. Your prayers for our projects, staff and those we support, can make a real difference. Three times a year we produce *Footprints*, our supporters' magazine, plus a monthly email prayer diary, which includes prayer requests from our projects in the UK and around the world. You can request *Footprints* and our prayer sheet to be sent to you or you can download it from our website www.spurgeons.org.

Give

Please support our work by including Spurgeons' donation envelopes at your Christmas service, celebration or group meeting where you are showing the *Sami and the Ultimate Christmas Gift* DVD and using the other materials contained in this resource.

You can order more envelopes online at www.spurgeonschristmas.org or by calling **01993 412412**.

Sponsor a child

Many of the children we work with in Uganda and Kenya have lost one or both parents to AIDS. Sponsoring a child for just £18 a month is a real lifeline, providing education, food, clothing, somewhere to live and hope for the future.

You can find out more at www.spurgeons.org/sponsor-a-child



A Gift in your Will

Each year we receive gifts from people who have remembered us when making their Will.

It may seem daunting to think about making a Will, but it can be very straightforward. We have produced a FREE information pack to help you think about your Will, or to help you amend an existing Will. To receive a pack, simply email us, in confidence, at info@spurgeons.org or call us on **01933 412412**. Remembering Spurgeons in your Will means we can be here for children in the future.

Become a Spurgeons Representative

After using our Christmas resources, we hope you will want to build a relationship between your church/group and Spurgeons. We'd be delighted to arrange for someone from Spurgeons to come along and speak at one of your meetings. If you are committed to changing the lives of some of the most vulnerable children, young people and families in the UK and around the world, we'd like to work with you as a local Spurgeons Representative.

Set up a Spurgeons Network Project

Several of our Network Projects are based in local churches. Our first church partnership began in 1989 when a Baptist church asked us to get involved with their youth work. Since then, our Spurgeons Network of church projects has grown and flourished, with many churches benefiting from it.

Have you got all you need?

For further copies of this resource guide, invitations, activity books, or donation envelopes, please call 01933 412412 quoting Christmas Resources or complete the online order form at www.spurgeonschristmas.org

Thank you for supporting the work of Spurgeons with vulnerable children, young people and families this Christmas in Africa and here in the UK.

To find out more about supporting Spurgeons or how you can partner with us, please contact us at:

Spurgeons

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SPURGEONS
Spurring on the young