

Youth group activity

Use this activity to show your group how children live in Manjakandriana, Madagascar, and how your support could change everything this Christmas.

"Christmas gives me happiness because it's a special day when we remember the birth of Jesus. My favourite moment of Christmas day is when we go to church and afterwards all my children and grandchildren are gathered in the house to be with me." Juliette

Christmas is a special time for many of us: it's about spending time with loved ones, sharing food, sharing stories and dreams. Juliette has 11 grandchildren. Johary, who is 8, lives with her.

Johary is in third grade and loves going to school with all the other children in the village. His favourite subject is writing but he's not so keen on French. 'It is really tough, particularly verbs. I am not good at all,' he says.

Ask the group about what they like at school? Which year are they in? What's their favourite subject?

Johary lives with his grandmother and calls her 'Bebe'. He loves making and playing with cars.

'Now we're on holidays - that's why I made this lorry. It took me a day to make this. Bebe



◀ Johary with his handmade toy lorry.



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brought me an empty oil can to make the lorry. I went to Manjakandriana to collect plastic bottle caps in the market for the wheels.' Johary said.

Discuss this with your group – do they enjoy making things? What's their favourite toy or game? How is it different from Johary's?

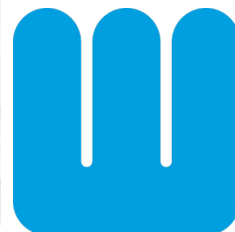
It's Johary's task to collect water for Bebe, several times a day. Johary doesn't mind collecting water, but finds it tough when it's hot. "I sweat a lot after two or three times going back and forth," he told us.

Explain that 1 in 10 people around the world do not have clean water close to home. In Madagascar, that's nearly half of the people. Johary and his family can only access a groundwater pool they need to walk to. It's hilly, slippery and dangerous, and the water there is dirty.

Ask the children whether they can imagine carrying heavy water containers up a steep hill? What do they think can happen when you drink dirty water?



◀ Johary walks to the village's water source 3-4 times a day.



WaterAid

Johary wants to be a driver like many of the boys in the village: 'Maybe, I will save money and buy a car to drive and work with. Becoming a driver looks nice.' he says.

Ask the children what they want to be when they grow up? What do they think they will need to achieve this? What do they think Johary would need?

Explain that your group is supporting the charity WaterAid, who are working on a project to bring clean water to Manjakandriana, so that children like Johary don't have to walk long distances to dangerous water sources. Instead, they will have clean water to drink, allowing them to be healthy, educated and closer to making their dreams come true.

Together with the group, think about how you could raise funds to help children like Johary and his family get clean water.



"Having a family is a wonderful thing because you can hug each other and support each other." Juliette



Here are some of our fundraising ideas for inspiration:

- ◆ **Christmas collection:** hold a festive collection one Sunday during Advent.
- ◆ **Christmas feast:** hold a supper where attendants bring different, home-made dishes to share. You can organise it around a theme too (e.g. a curry, fish or soup night). Ask for a donation to attend.
- ◆ **Christmas wreaths:** invite members of your group for a crafty afternoon making and decorating Christmas wreaths. Ask for a donation to participate or offer the wreaths for sale at your Christmas fayre. You can make/decorate your own candles too!
- ◆ Hold a **carol concert** and ask guests for a donation to attend in support of WaterAid.
- ◆ Organise a **coffee morning** and offer home-made cakes and festive treats too.
- ◆ Organise a **Christmas movie afternoon/night:** show a festive, family-friendly movie. Get ready with lots of popcorn or snacks, hot chocolate for the youngest members of the group and mulled wine for the adults. Sell tickets in advance or ask for a donation for the snacks and drinks.

For more fundraising ideas and for the stories of Johary and Juliette, please visit wateraid.org/uk/Christmas

