



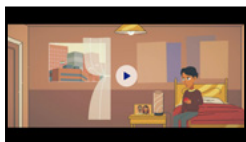
Is Hami Free?

Children's session plan

This session is designed for children aged 5-11, to help them think about freedom and persecution, how Christians are persecuted around the world, and how to support them. It can be used at church, school or home, using the following resources:

FILM

'Hami's Story' is a short, animated children's film, showing the dangers of being a Christian in Iran. It can be downloaded from www.vimeo.com/opendoorsuk



MAP

The Open Doors World Watch Children's Map 2020 gives the context for persecution.



QUIZ

The World Watch List Quiz 2020 PowerPoint can be downloaded from www.opendoorsuk.org



POST IT!

This resource provides a guide to sending drawings and messages of encouragement to Christian children facing persecution, along with their families.



Get ready

- Check out the supporting resources – quiz, film, maps, *Post It!* at www.opendoorsuk.org
- Order World Watch 2020 Maps for each child in your group.
- Order copies of *Post It!* – our letter-writing guide for children.

Aims

- To discover the courageous faith of Christians and church leaders in Iran
- To support persecuted Christians through prayer and messages of encouragement

Short plan

Mix and match from the following activities to create your session. There's more than enough to fill an hour – so you can always save some for another time.

ACTIVITY	RESOURCE	TIME
Run free! game and discussion	1 helper, 4 scarves	
Hand out World Watch List Maps	Enough maps for all children	
World Watch 2020 List Quiz	Downloadable PowerPoint	
Watch film 'Hami's Story'	Downloadable film	
Discussion about the film		
'Keep calm' prayer space	Rugs, cushions, etc.	
Draw picture for Iranian children	Copies of <i>Post It!</i>	
Take home World Watch map		

Activities in detail

RUN FREE! - A game to make you think!

Before the session, ask an adult helper's permission to use them as a visual aid (they will gradually have scarves tied around their legs, eyes, hands and mouth). Then ask children the following questions. Designate one wall for 'Yes' and one wall for 'No' and tell them to run to the appropriate wall for their answer.

Q: Today, we're going to think about freedom. Are people in this country free to go to church or meet with others to worship God? *Children run to wall.*

A: Yes - but that's not true for everybody in every country. *Ask a child to tie a scarf round the helper's ankles.*

Q: Are people free to read the Bible in every country of the world? *Children run to wall.*

A: No, that's not true for everybody around the world. We are free to do that here, but there are some countries where they're not. *Ask another child to blindfold the helper.*

Q: Are people in this country free to say what they think and believe about their religion, without fear of imprisonment? *Children run.*

A: Yes, we are free here, but that's not true for everybody around the world. *Ask another child to tie a scarf round the helper's mouth.*

Q: Is everybody around the world free to eat, drink, write, go to school, get qualifications, marry, work, earn money and get a better job, without being picked on because of their religion?! *Children run.*

A: No, that's not true in every country of the world. *Ask another child to tie the helper's hands together behind their back.*

Q: How would you feel if you didn't have these freedoms? *Take all answers: angry, sad, bored, worried, hungry, thirsty, hopeless, etc. Untie the scarves and ask the helper how they felt.*

You: Here, we have a great deal of freedom – but that's not true in every country. In some countries, if you do these things, there might be problems for you. Big problems! Do you know in which countries it's difficult or dangerous to be a Christian? *Take answers.*

WORLD WATCH LIST MAP

Hand out maps and look at the countries.

Q: There are around 200 countries in the world and this map shows the 50 countries where it is most difficult or dangerous to be a Christian. Find out what they know already.

WORLD WATCH LIST POWERPOINT QUIZ

Each slide has flags, facts and images of 10 different countries that are on the Open Doors World Watch List.

Show the slide and ask children to guess the country. The answers are on the last slide. Find the countries on the map.

FILM 'HAMI'S STORY'

Watch the film together.

Please note: Hami and Pastor Milad are characters created for this film. They are not the real names of Christians who've had this experience. However, this story is based on the many true experiences of children, families and church leaders in Iran and is an accurate reflection of what can happen to Christians in house churches there.

IS HAMI FREE? DISCUSSION

Use the following questions to explore children's reactions to the film - and to help build resilience and faith.

- **What do you think might have happened next to Pastor Milad?** (Probably he would have had to serve his sentence and adapt to life in prison.)
- **What do you think Hami and his family might have done next?** (Probably they would have fled to another country.)
- **What did Hami's mum say to stop him worrying?** (Jesus says we can trust Him, John 14:1)
- **Is Hami free?** (He may not be free to go to church openly or share his faith, but he is free to pray and think)
- **What sort of things worry you?**
- **Can you think of anything else that you know about Jesus, or from the Bible, that helps you when you are worried?**

'KEEP CALM' PRAYER SPACE

Create a space to remember Hami and other children affected by persecution. This could be a comfy area, with rugs and cushions – or some other creative kind of space - displaying Jesus words: "Trust in God, trust also in Me" (John 14:1). Use it, too, to help children share and pray about their own worries.

SEND A MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Use the guidelines in our children's resource Post It!, to send a drawing to encourage Iranian children like Hami.

TAKEAWAY WORLD WATCH LIST 2020 MAPS

Give each child a map to take home.