



# ALL-AGE TALK AND CHILDREN'S GROUP ACTIVITIES

## All-age talk

You will need:

- ★ Large sheet of paper and markers or building blocks or boxes
- ★ Stronger than the Storms film clip, available at [caweek.org/films](http://caweek.org/films)
- ★ Bricks of hope template, available at [caweek.org/resources](http://caweek.org/resources)
- ★ Plus for the children's group activities
- ★ Zaza's house game and house money-box template (see pages 3 and 4)
- ★ Coloured pens or pencils

1. Start by asking the congregation to close their eyes and picture their home after they've been away for a while. What are they looking forward to coming back to? Ask people to call out the favourite part of their home.
2. Have someone draw these aspects of home as they are called out. The aim is to create a home made up of everyone's favourite parts. If your church has the technology, display the words as they are called out on screens around the church. You could also ask a child to come to the front and build a house out of building blocks or boxes.
3. Did anyone say the walls were their favourite bit? Or the roof? Explain that these are often parts of our homes that we take for granted. But they're so important – without the walls or the roof, all our other favourite parts wouldn't be there! Tell the congregation that you want to tell them about someone who had to live in a house for five months without a roof.
4. Introduce them to Zaza, either by showing the Stronger than the Storms film clip

(available to download at [caweek.org/films](http://caweek.org/films)) or by reading out the following information.

Zaza is eight years old and lives in Haiti. When a hurricane hit Haiti two years ago, Zaza was at home in bed. Knowing that their house wasn't strong, Zaza and her family ran through the wind and the rain to a nearby shelter. Everyone was soaked to the skin by the lashing rain. The wind was so strong that it blew over many trees on Zaza's part of the island – she only just escaped being crushed by a falling coconut tree. Zaza says: 'I was very scared of the hurricane. I was afraid.' At the shelter they were safe from the storm, but when they got back to their house they found the wind had blown the roof right off! So they had to live without a roof for five months. But Christian Aid, a charity in the UK and Ireland, has helped to replace Zaza's roof with a nice strong one. So now she doesn't worry about hurricanes and can enjoy her two favourite things: reading and skipping. Zaza says: 'I like when my friends come to the house and we all play hide and seek together!'

The Bible talks about God being a shelter for us in times of storms (Isaiah 25:4). This doesn't just mean during real storms but is about God promising to be with us during difficult times in our lives. And as Christians we're called to be God's hands here on earth and to help people like Zaza when they're in need.

Throughout Advent, churches across East Kent will be thinking about what it means to be 'home' and what it might be like to lose your home or be far from it. What can you do to explore these questions?

- ★ Host a Posada family - small figures of Mary and Joseph stay in a different home each evening during Advent, before arriving back at Church in time for Christmas. See the Posada resource on [canterburydiocese.org/](http://canterburydiocese.org/)

advent

- ★ Create a house using our bricks of hope template available from [caweek.org/resources](http://caweek.org/resources)
- ★ Ask everyone to write a message on the brick templates for people who lose their homes in disasters. Close with a prayer for Zaza and the work of Christian Aid in Haiti. You could also pray for those in your church and community taking part in Christian Aid Week All-age talk and children's group activities

## Children's group activities

Use the resources around you to build a house, a den, a shelter and hold your group session inside. Then:

1. Play the Zaza's house game (see page 3).
2. Watch the Stronger than the Storms film clip again or re-read her story. Ask the children what they think the hurricane must have been like for Zaza. What do they think it would have been like to live in a house with no roof? How does the story make them feel? What would they say to Zaza if they met her?
3. Read Isaiah 25:4 together. What does the group think it means for God to be a shelter? How can God be a shelter? Draw an outline of a house and write the children's ideas inside in one colour. Can they think of ways that we can be a shelter to others in our church, our community and around the world? Write their suggestions of ways to help inside the house in a different colour.
4. Sing a child-friendly song about shelter, such as 'A Shelter in a Time of Storm'.
5. Discuss with the children what your group could do as part of Christian Aid Week to help others around the world. Is your church holding a Big Brekkie ([caweek.org/bigbrekkie](http://caweek.org/bigbrekkie)) that the children could help with? Or ask them to think of an activity of their own they'd like to do.
6. Use the house money-box template (page 4) to make and decorate money-boxes. Ask the children to collect coins in the money-boxes for the work of Christian Aid.

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# Zaza's house game

## You will need:

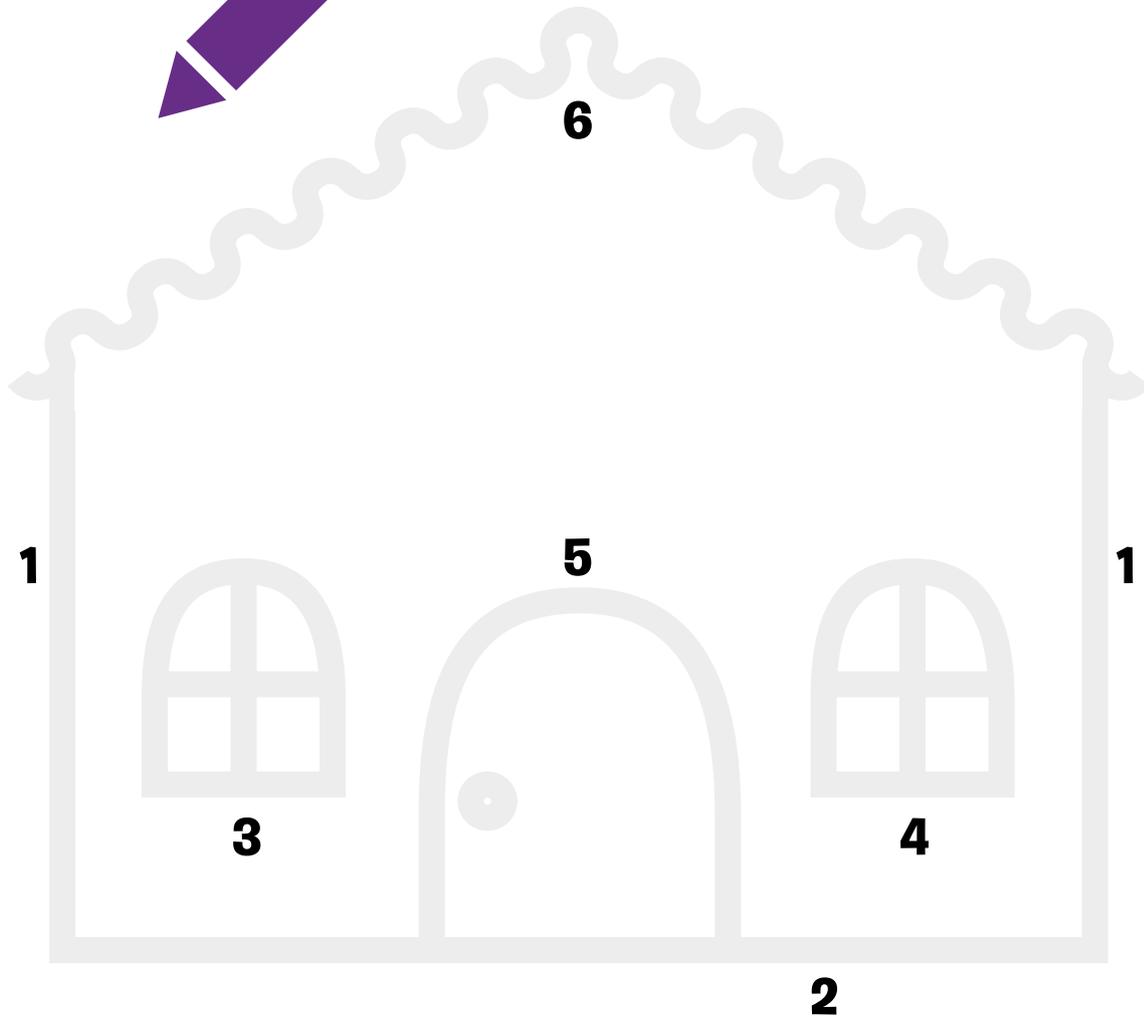
- A dice
- A copy of this sheet for everyone playing
- Pens



## How to play:

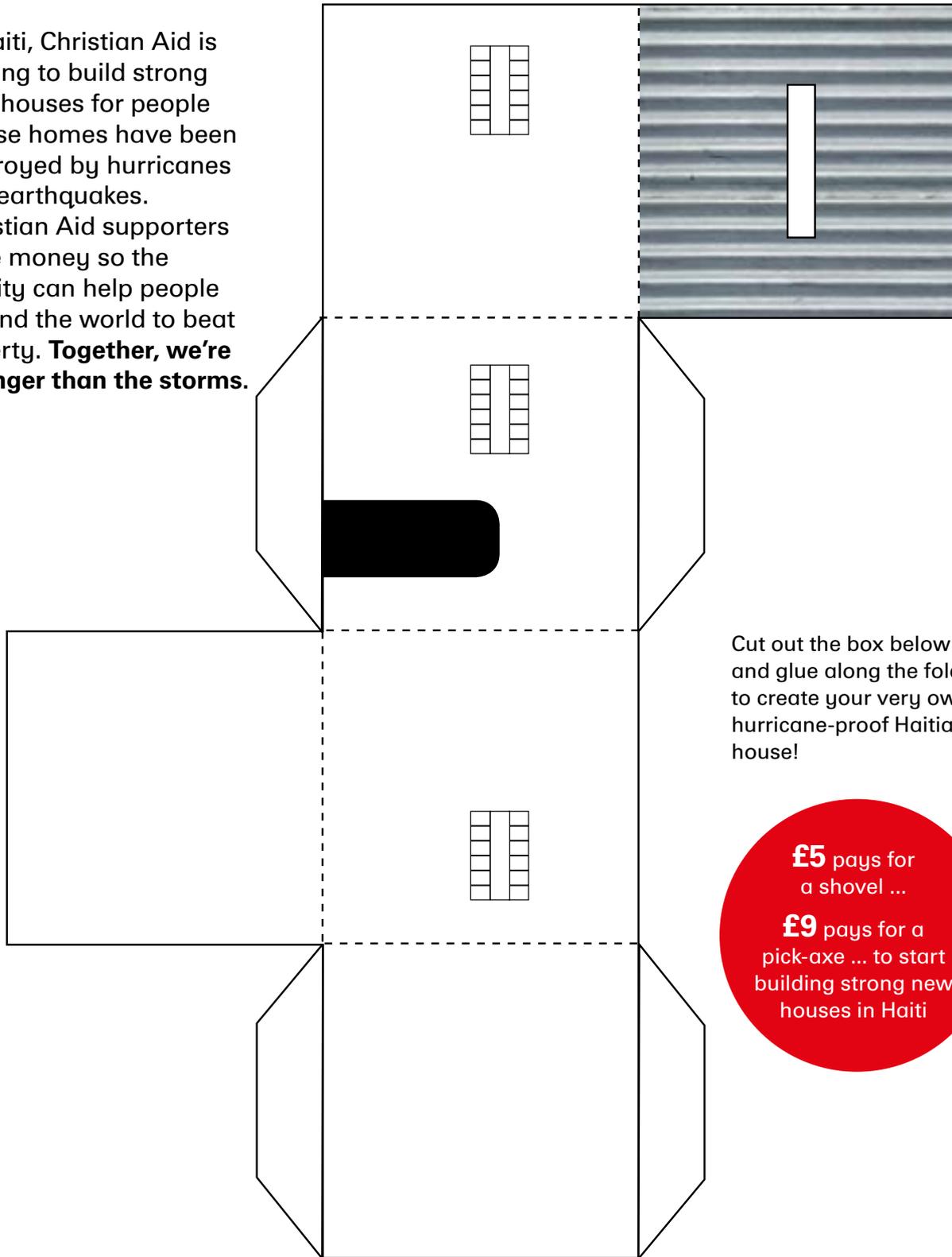
Take it in turns to throw the dice. On your sheet, each part of the house has its own number. Whatever number the dice lands on, find the part in your house with the same number and go over it with your pen. So, if you throw a 1 you can draw one of the walls. You'll need a 6 for the roof!

The first person to complete their house is the winner!



# Make your own money box

In Haiti, Christian Aid is helping to build strong new houses for people whose homes have been destroyed by hurricanes and earthquakes. Christian Aid supporters raise money so the charity can help people around the world to beat poverty. **Together, we're stronger than the storms.**



Cut out the box below and glue along the folds to create your very own hurricane-proof Haitian house!

**£5** pays for a shovel ...  
**£9** pays for a pick-axe ... to start building strong new houses in Haiti

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