Activities to do at home or in children's groups

- Ask the children to think of something they would find difficult to give up during Lent. Read a child-friendly version of Jesus in the desert from Matthew 4:1-11 and talk about what they think of the story. Why did Jesus spend time in the desert? Why was it important? How do they think Jesus felt? Do they think giving up something at Lent to remember this time is a good idea? Why or why not?
- Using an atlas or a map, show the children where Iraq is. Talk about Maryam's story. What would the children ask Maryam if they met her?
- Use our activity sheet below to print and write a prayer for families like Maryam's who are away from home. You could also print out copies of the prayer for Maryam from the talk for children to decorate and use to pray.
- Maryam's mum, Abeer, said that receiving help from Tearfund made her feel like 'there is someone taking care of us'. Make a list of ideas of things children can do to help and take care of others. Could they make one of the things from the list happen?
- Could the children in your church support the work of Tearfund by raising funds for our Lent Appeal? Maybe they could be sponsored to sleep in a tent at home.

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100 Church Road, Teddington TW11 8QE
T 020 3906 3906 **E** info@tearfund.org /tearfund

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Write your own prayer

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A prayer for Maryam

Heavenly Father,

At this time of Lent we want to say thank you for the good things we enjoy.

We pray for people around the world who have had to give up their homes.

We pray that Maryam and her family have the things they need while they are at the camp,

And we pray that they might be able to return home one day.

Please help Tearfund to be able to help more families like Maryam's.

Amen.

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Maryam's story

What is it like where you live? Maybe you live in a block of flats or maybe in a house. Maybe you even live in a castle. Draw your home here:

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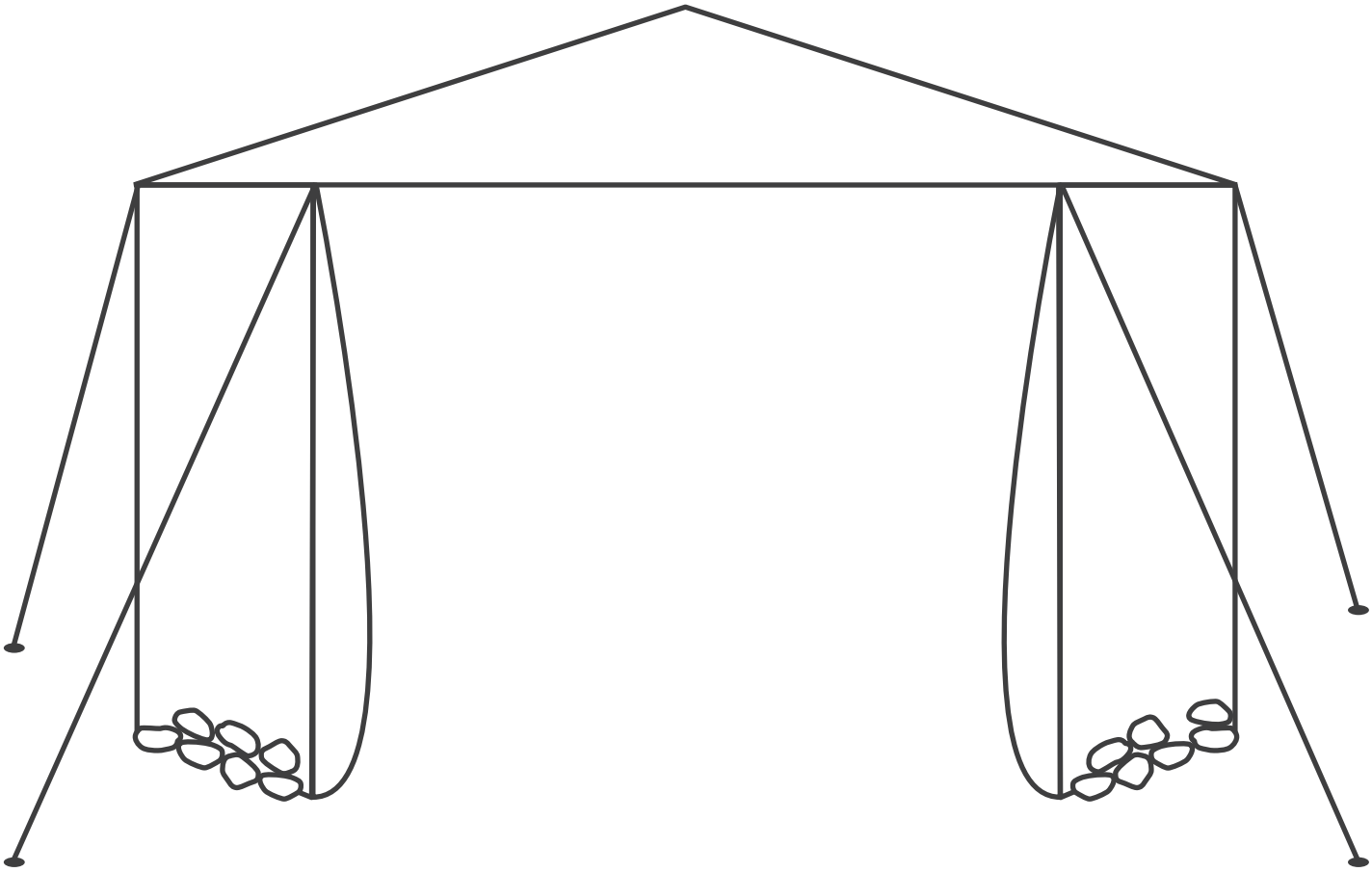
Maryam's story

Maryam is seven years old. She used to live in a house but fighting in her village meant that her family had to leave their home quickly, leaving everything they had behind. Maryam's family is living in a tent in a camp at the moment, but they hope that one day they can return to their village. Tearfund is a charity who have helped Maryam's family get warm clothes for the winter.

Can you write or draw a prayer for Maryam inside the tent below? Then put your picture somewhere that will remind you to pray for people who have had to leave their home.



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