



Memory's Story (Malawi)

Secondary Case Study
with Learning Activities



TEACHER INFORMATION

The learning tasks follow the 'See, Judge, Act' learning inquiry cycle used in Caritas Australia's education resources. This reflection–action process was first used by a Belgian Catholic priest, Joseph Cardijn (who later became a Cardinal) with Young Christian Workers prior to the first World War. This approach was also recommended in the 1961 encyclical letter written by Pope John XXIII called Mater et Magistra (Mother and Teacher).

See: A story with comprehension questions, activities and a country study

Judge: A Catholic worldview, reflecting on what they have learnt in light of the Catholic faith

Act: Faith in action, including prayer

The document contains hyperlinks within to enable easy access across the different components. They are broken into the following categories:

- **Case Study:** story of the individual, including a link to a video
- **See:** sequence of activities to understand the story and global issues
- **Judge:** sequence of activities to reflect on the issues from a Catholic Worldview
- **Act:** sequence of activities to encourage students to take action
- **Deep Dive:** An interactive Thinglink image designed as a central location for students to access information about the story to complete the activities.



Case Study



See



Judge



Act



Deep-Dive

Learning Intentions

Students will be able to:

- explain Memory's story
- explain how Caritas Australia and CADECOM supported Memory and her family and community
- describe the personal impacts on Memory
- understand the social and economic context in Malawi.

Success Criteria

Students will be able to demonstrate their understanding by:

- completing comprehension tasks
- connecting the story to Catholic Social Teaching (CST)
- organising and/or reflecting on ways to support people like Memory and/or the work of Caritas Australia
- - completing a deep dive on the social and economic context in the Malawi.



[Watch Memory's Story](#)

Memory is 26 years old and lives in rural Malawi. Her parents are subsistence farmers who depend on their crops for survival. Climate shocks and low agricultural productivity mean that poverty levels remain high in Malawi, particularly in rural areas. Nearly 70 per cent of the population live on less than \$2.15 a day – one of the highest rates worldwide.¹

As the eldest of 5 children, Memory had to support her family with domestic chores such as farming, carrying water, cooking and cleaning, while also attending school.

“Growing up in the village was not easy. My parents don’t have a job, so they depend on farming. When the season goes wrong, we suffer a lot and become food insecure. Sometimes we need to bathe without soap. Sometimes we need to walk without shoes,” Memory said. **“When I was in primary school, I went to school barefooted because my parents didn’t have money to buy shoes for me.”**

Economic opportunities for girls in Malawi are constrained by high levels of early school leavers and women typically tend to work in lower paying jobs or stay at home.

“Many women in my community drop out of school because they can’t afford school fees, which leads to early marriage and early pregnancy and more poverty,” Memory said. **“But I told myself I can’t stop going to school because this is the only way I can get a better life.”**

Continue reading Memory’s story on the next page.

Memory stands in a workshop at the technical college where she completed her three-year carpentry course.
Photo: Tim Lam/Caritas Australia

MEMORY'S STORY (MALAWI)



Memory worked hard to secure her dream. After being identified by local leaders in her village as a capable candidate for a vocational skills course, Memory was referred to a technical college with support from CADECOM, Caritas Australia's local partner in Malawi.

"It was my dream to go to college, so I was very excited to get that opportunity. My parents also were very excited to see their daughter go to college," Memory said.

Through the A+ program, CADECOM supported Memory with the provision of logistical support like tuition and boarding fees with funding from Caritas Australia. The program has provided opportunities for more than 360 youth to be empowered through vocational skills such as welding, carpentry, tailoring and brick laying.

"In my community, most people think that only men can be carpenters, so I want to prove to my community that women can do it as well," Memory said.

After three years, Memory graduated with an Advanced Certificate in Carpentry and Joinery. With her newly acquired skills, she secured a job as a carpenter at one of the largest hydroelectric power companies in Malawi.

The A+ program also supported Memory's family through Village Savings and Loans groups, and provided them with goats, and training in bee keeping and irrigation farming to increase food security.

Since 2016, the A+ program has supported 7,397 households (33,287 people) to improve food security, provide access to basic water and sanitation, and to increase women's income generation opportunities. The program will soon enter a new phase – the A+ Successor program – and will help 10,184 households (56,096 people) over the next 5 years.

With the income from her carpentry job, Memory can now provide some financial support to her parents.

"Because I studied carpentry, my siblings admire me and want to get educated so they can get a job and assist my parents," Memory said. **"In the future, I want to build a house for my parents because the one they are using now is in a bad condition. I also want to own my own workshop so I can help the community and employ others in the community."**

Along with your generous support, this program is also supported by the Australian Government, through Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



¹ [World Bank](#)

A CATHOLIC WORLDVIEW

SUBSIDIARITY

noun

- from the Latin word *subsidium*, meaning support or assistance
- the idea that people and groups have the right to participate in decisions that affect them and, when they can't meet their own needs, other parts of society (e.g. the government) act according to their duty to assist with resources and support
- an approach to common life that promotes participation and ensures people are architects of their own development

- A. How is subsidiarity and participation demonstrated in Memory's story?
- B. How is supporting Caritas Australia one way you can demonstrate a commitment to subsidiarity and participation?

LEADERSHIP

Memory has demonstrated leadership by: working hard to secure her dream of going to college and getting a job; proving women can become carpenters too; being a good role model for her siblings; and sharing her commitment to her community with the hope that one day she will own her own workshop so she can employ others in her community.

Explore the theme of leadership in Scripture.

Moses – Read the story of the Burning Bush (Exodus 3:1-20). God has to be very convincing in order for Moses to take action. How did Moses demonstrate leadership?

Jesus – One of the most powerful events in the life of Jesus is when he washes his disciples' feet in John 13:1–16. Explain servant leadership.

FAITH IN ACTION

PRAYER

Write a prayer inspired by Memory's story.

FASTING

Fasting can be linked to our concern for those who are forced to fast by their poverty, those who suffer from the injustices of our economic and political structures, and those who are in need for any reason. Traditionally, abstaining from meat was one way of remembering people who did not have enough to meet their daily needs. Some people also choose other ways to 'fast' such as from social media.

Reflecting on Memory's story, consider what you could 'fast' from for a week and challenge yourself to do this.

What will you 'fast'?

How will this make you feel?

Reflect on the following questions after fasting experience.

What did you notice about yourself during this experience? How would your experience compare to Memory's daily reality?

ALMSGIVING

Memory is putting her skills as a carpenter to good use. How can you utilise your time, talents or treasure towards helping others?

Consider who within your life is going through a challenging time and would appreciate a random act of kindness.

MEMORY'S STORY

DEEP DIVE



Secondary Deep Dive link

Find the matching icons on the Secondary Deep Dive and use your own research to find out the information below.







 <p>What is the population of Malawi? What is the population of Australia?</p>	Malawi:		 <p>The Laudato Si' Goals Identify one or more Laudato Si' goals and explain how they are being addressed through the work of Caritas Australia and its partners.</p>
 <p>Predict life expectancy in Malawi and Australia. Find out the correct answer. Does this surprise you? Why/Why not?</p>	Australia:		
 <p>What share of the population of Malawi live in extreme poverty on less than \$2.15 per day?</p>	Malawi:	Australia:	
 <p>What share of the population of Malawi live on less than \$10 per day?</p>	Prediction:	Prediction:	
<p>List the various activities Caritas Australia's partner, CADECOM, offer Memory's community.</p>	Actual:	Actual:	 <p>The Sustainable Development Goals Select two SDG goals that are relevant to Memory's story. Explain the goals you have selected and how they are relevant to the case study.</p>

PHOTO CREDITS

Memory's Story (Malawi) – Tim Lam/Caritas Australia

STUDENTS

Learning about challenges to the health, wellbeing and safety of others and our earth can be hard. If you are feeling worried or upset about anything you have learnt about through this resource, make sure you talk to your teacher or trusted adult. They can share your concerns via our [website](#).

Do you have an idea for how Caritas Australia can improve our school resources? We would love to hear it! Please email education@caritas.org.au

TEACHERS

For more school resources, please visit: caritas.org.au/resources/school-resources/

Stay up to date with events and resources! Subscribe to [Caritas Australia's Education e-newsletter](#).

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

education@caritas.org.au



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