

YOUTH GROUPS - SESSION 4

JUSTICE

Main Aim: to help the young people learn how they can bring justice to the world

Opening Game

You will need: Guess the celebrity images that are distorted.

Time: 10 minutes

- 👑 Show distorted images - answer individually or as a group quiz.
- 👑 Reveal answers - prize for individual or team that gets most right.
- 👑 Use distorted image as an example of things not quite being the way they are meant to be.

Icebreaker & Question

Time: 10 minutes

If you were a news reporter for a day, what issue would you cover so that more people were aware it and more people could do something about it?

Say

Why does Justice matter?

Justice can be one of those words that we hear all the time, which is actually quite difficult to define in a sentence when asked. Ask the group what they think the word 'justice' means. Split into pairs and give each pair 60 seconds to come up with a definition. Let each pair share their definition with the group. Were there any common words that kept coming up from the different definitions given? Share the dictionary definition of justice below. Whose definition was closest?

Dictionary definition: **Justice is a concept that means people behave in a way that is fair, equal and balanced for everyone.**

In the Christian faith, as well as most other religions, justice and fairness are an important part of the faith's teaching. There are numerous mentions of the word 'justice' in the Bible. Christians don't need to look far to find an example of someone who cared and fought for justice. Jesus cared for the outcasts and the downtrodden; he reached out to others with love and compassion, and he spoke up for those who were overlooked or discriminated against. Jesus made pursuing justice an important part of his life on earth.

Thousands of years later, the battle for justice is being fought by people around the world. Many charities and organisations exist purely to fight for justice and help disadvantaged people in all walks of life.

The Queen and members of the Royal family, spend much of their time supporting and championing the work of some of these charities and organisations, helping to shine spotlights on important issues and raise awareness of the work these charities do. In fact the Royal family are Patron or President to over 3,000 charities and organisations worldwide, including the British Red Cross, Action for Children, WaterAid and Action Aid.

Activity – Paper Balls

What you'll need: Paper and a bin / bucket.

Length of activity: 5- 10 minutes.

Stand the group spaced-out in a line that spreads across most of the room (there should be at least 5 or 6 metres between the first and last person – ideally more). Give each person a piece of paper and ask them to scrunch it up.

Once everyone has done this, place a bin or a large bucket at one end of the line. It should be very close to the first person in the line. Explain that every person that can get their ball in the bin/bucket from where they are standing will get a prize (eg a chocolate bar). No-one is allowed to move. Only award a prize to anyone who got their ball in the bin/bucket.

Afterwards have the following discussion.

- 👑 Who was happy with the outcome? Who wasn't?
- 👑 Were the rules fair? If not, why not?
- 👑 Who thinks the rules should change if played again and who thinks they should stay the same?
- 👑 During the activity, who complained about the rules and who celebrated them?

It was probably likely that those at the front of the line were far less likely to complain or speak out, than those who were at the back of the line with the least chance of succeeding. This can be similar with injustices around the world. Those with the best life opportunities or greatest resources, and therefore those who are least impacted by any 'unfairness', are often those who are best placed to speak out. However, they can be too focused on what's in front of them to turn around and consider what's happening behind them.

Bible Bit

What you'll need: Bible.

Length of activity: 5 minutes.

Read Micah 6:8 to your group or get one of them to read it.

The Lord has shown you what is good.

He has told you what he requires of you.

You must act with justice.

You must love to show mercy.

And you must be humble as you live in the sight of your God.

Before looking at this verse in more detail, ask the group what their initial thoughts are? What do they think this verse is saying? What do they think this verse is encouraging people to do?

Our earlier activities have highlighted examples where things haven't been fair or 'just'. How could we change those activities to live out the Bible verse we have just shared?

Video

What you'll need: YouTube video & projector / TV (Optional)

Length of activity: 10 minutes.

Malala Yousafzai is a brilliant example of someone who saw and experienced injustice and used her voice and actions to make a difference to bring about change. Ask the group if any of them know Malala's story. Once the group have shared what they know, share the information below.

Malala's story

- 👑 Born on 12th July 1997 in Pakistan. In Pakistan baby girls weren't always a cause for celebration, but her father was determined to give her every opportunity that a boy would have.
- 👑 In 2008 the Taliban took control of Malala's home town. They banned many things such as owning a TV and playing music, and also declared that girls could no longer go to school. Aged just 11, Malala had to say goodbye to her education – something she loved and was passionate about.
- 👑 Malala continued to receive an education secretly and at great risk. She wrote articles for the BBC under a secret name, detailing the Taliban's growing influence in her home town and the impact it was having on her.
- 👑 Malala started speaking out publicly on behalf of girls, campaigning for their right to an education. This made her a target.
- 👑 In October 2012, on the way home from school, a masked gunman boarded her school bus and asked 'Who is Malala?'. He shot her in the head.
- 👑 Malala was rushed to hospital and eventually moved to the UK for treatment. She woke up 10 days later.

👑 Since the attack, Malala has lived in the UK and has committed her life to speaking up about girls' education and demanding equal access. She established a charity, dedicated to giving every girl an opportunity to achieve the future that they deserve.

👑 In December 2014, Malala became the youngest ever winner of a Nobel peace prize.

Her story in video form can be [found here](#).

After experiencing the horror of a gun attack and defeating the odds by pulling through, it could have been so easy for Malala to hide away and live a quiet life. Instead she chose to continue the fight and put other people before herself. Now she is free from the Taliban and their rules, living in the UK with access to education. Instead of being silenced, her voice is now louder than ever.

Question: What impacts you about Malala's story?

Application/What's it to me?

What you'll need: 'God of Justice' worship song by Tim Hughes

Length of activity: 10 minutes.

Spend some time thinking about people, groups, countries and so on who are experiencing injustice and disadvantage. Give each young person some Post-it notes and a pen. Ask them to write down the names of people / groups / countries etc. This might include homeless people, people living in poverty, women facing domestic abuse, people living with famine and disease and so on.

Place all the Post-it notes on a wall to help the whole group appreciate the wide range of people the group have thought of.

Spend some time in reflection and prayer. During this time play the worship song 'God of Justice' by Tim Hughes. Encourage the group to listen to the words and think about them. To help with this, you could show [a lyric video](#)

Prayer

You will need: cardboard, pens, paper, tape - see link below

Time: 15 minutes

Prayer Spaces in Schools resource - [Cardboard Home](#)

You might want to close this time with this prayer:

Dear Lord,

God of Justice, we know the world is full of injustice and people are suffering because of it. Lord, help us to open our eyes and see those around us who are in need of our love and support. Give us the strength and courage to use our voices, talents, resources and more to do your work and fight their corners.

Whilst we might not be able to change the world, help us to remember that we can change the world for one person; that just a small act of kindness can make a big difference.

Amen.

Challenge

What you'll need: Pens and Paper

Length of activity: 20 minutes

There are many ways for groups and individuals to get involved with some charity work or a campaign that will help others.

As a group, discuss where you would like to make a difference and how much time and resources you have to give. You might choose to do something that benefits people in your local community or you might like to help people thousands of miles away. Come up with a plan for what you'd like to do and then put those plans into practice.

Ideas could include collecting for a food bank, purchasing tents/sleeping bags/clothes etc for the homeless, putting on a fundraiser for a charity or creating a petition for an important cause.

Plenary: What is the ONE THING I can do to bring justice to my world?