Bringing justice



Bible verses:

Amos 5:24



Aim:

To recognise God's desire for justice and fairness in how we treat others, and to consider how we can bring justice and goodness to our communities





Today's fruit:

Goodness

Today we begin our four-week series discovering more about what it means to see God's justice in the world.

We start with the prophet Amos, who had a message from God for the people of Israel. God was angry with the way they were treating the poor and those who could not stand up for themselves. We'll discover the vision God shared of a world full of goodness and justice.

God wants us to live in a world full of goodness and justice and wants our help in creating it.

Each child will need:

- Memory verse wristband
- Amos 5:24 handout three designs
- A strip of blue paper and pens/pencils
- Explore It ideas handout

You will need:

- A bag of sweets please be aware of allergies
- Memory verse poster
- Fruit of the Spirit poster: Goodness download from Salvationist



Start with an activity to help the children to think about what we mean by the terms 'justice' and 'injustice'.



Ask the children to sit in a circle. You will need a bag of sweets, but make sure there are not enough of them for everyone in the group. Ask the children to take a sweet and pass the bag on to the next person – but they are to wait until everyone has a sweet before they can eat it. When the sweets run out, discuss with the children whether it is fair that some children have nothing and what they could do to solve the situation.

There are ways to develop this activity and discuss the outcomes with the children. You could randomly remove a sweet from a couple of children and keep them for yourself. You could produce another bag of sweets and hand it to one of the other group leaders.

The aim is to encourage discussions about:

- Justice the quality of being fair and just.
- Injustice the violation of the rights of another.

You may wish to conclude the activity with everyone receiving a sweet - and eating it.



Say:

Throughout this month we will be thinking about God's desire to bring justice to the world. We see so many things in our world that are unfair. People use their power to hurt others and treat them in a way that does not reflect God's love. Our memory verse reminds us of what God expects us to do as his followers.

Display the memory verse and give each child a memory verse wristband. Read through the verse together and explain to the children that we will be learning more about the prophet Micah in next week's session.

Memory verse

'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.'

(Micah 6:8 NIV)



Our song for this week will help you to remember our memory verse.



'Micah 6:8' (Sing the Bible vol 4) by Slugs and Bugs (3:39)







In the Bible, prophets had an important job. They listened to God and shared his messages with people. In the Old Testament, before God's Holy Spirit was given to all believers, there were only a small number of people who could understand what God was saying.

Ask:

Think back to some of the stories we discovered in last month's Explore It. Which Bible character did we meet, who could hear the voice of God?

Say:

Today we're going to hear about another prophet who could hear God's voice. Amos said a lot of things to the Israelites about how they were living. They were focusing on rules and punishment rather than loving God and each other. Their idea of justice was punishing someone who did something against their rules, but God needed them to know that they weren't perfect either. They didn't understand that when they treated others unfairly, they were not pleasing God. Let's watch the clip to find out more about the story of Amos.

Video

Let Justice Roll Down (The story of Amos's message part 1 Amos 5) by The Biggest Story (3:49)

Discuss:

- What does justice mean?
- Why does God want us to act with justice? How does this link to our memory verse this month?
- What were the people doing to upset God?
- What were the rich people doing to the poor people?
- What did Amos tell the people?
- What picture did God give to his people?

Read:

'But let justice flow like a river.

Let goodness flow like a stream that never stops.'

(Amos 5:24 ICB)

Ask:

What would it be like to live in a world where justice and goodness flowed like a river that never stops flowing?





Display the Goodness sign.

Ask:

- How can we make our part of the world flow with goodness?
- How can we ask the Holy Spirit to help us?

Say:

Unfortunately, the people did not listen to Amos. They thought they knew better than God and continued to do things their own way. Let's find out what happened.

Video

Famine and Feast (The story of Amos's message part 2 Amos 8-9) by The Biggest Story (4:20)

Discuss:

- How did God try to wake up the Israelites from their pattern of poor behaviour?
- The clip says that the people had grown full of themselves and 'empty of God'. What do you think that means?
- What is a hypocrite? What kinds of things were the Israelites doing that made them hypocrites?
- What kind of famine did God say he would send upon the land?
- What did God promise his people?

Say:

God promised that he would rebuild the ruins of Israel and mend the broken places. Until that time came, God called the Israelites to seek justice and live lives full of goodness. He calls us to do the same.



Ask the children to think of all the different ways The Salvation Army tries to tackle injustice in the world. You may find the following clip useful, or you could discuss activities that run at your church.

Video

Year in Review by The Salvation Army UK & Ireland Territory (3:26)

After you have gathered ideas together, the children can choose to turn one of them into a picture, using the Amos 5:24 handout. Share your pictures together and read Amos 5:24 to bring the Action It section to a close.





Ask the children to think about all the injustices they have learned about in today's session. They may think back to the way the Israelites treated the poor and needy. Alternatively, they could think about the different people we saw in clip about The Salvation Army. Either way, the aim is for them to write a short prayer for those facing injustice, and to ask God for help to be part of the solution themselves rather than part of the problem. Ask the children to write their prayer on a strip of blue paper, representing the flowing river of God's justice and goodness.

Give the children time to write their prayers and share them together. They can take their flowing water prayer home to pray each day.



Remember to send home the Explore It ideas for children and families.



Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)



September: Session 1

Explore it

Bringing justice

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses: Amos 5:24



Aim:

To recognise God's desire for justice and fairness in how we treat others, and to consider how we can bring justice and goodness to our communities



Today's fruit: Goodness



Create

In Amos 5:24, God gives the people a picture of what a world filled with justice and goodness looks like. Create your own picture of a flowing river and write in the water all the ways that you can show justice and goodness to others.



'Micah 6:8' (Sing the Bible vol 4) by Slugs and Bugs



Share

The story of Amos is not as well known as some other stories in the Bible. Take time to share with the people at home the message of Amos. You could watch the clips from this week's session together.

Let Justice Roll Down (The story of Amos's message part 1 Amos 5) by The Biggest Story

Famine and Feast (The story of Amos's message part 2 Amos 8-9) by The Biggest Story



Memory verse

Children & Youth

'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'

(Micah 6:8 NIV)

Kids Alive! Online - salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!









LET GOODNESS FLOW LIKE A RIVER. (AMOS 524)



'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.' (Micah 6:8)





'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.'

(Micah 6:8)

'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
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'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
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And what does the Lord require of you?
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and to walk humbly with your God.'

(Micah 6:8)



Showing mercy



Bible verses:

Micah 6:8; Zechariah 7:9-10 The people should show mercy



Aim:

To reflect on what the Bible can teach us about how we treat others, and think about how we can live it out



Today's fruit:

Kindness



In today's session we continue to discover more about God's prophets in the Old Testament.

Despite them coming from different places and times, each prophet pretty much had the same message. God wanted the people to stop sinning and to do the right thing. Today we'll find out about the message God gave Micah and Zechariah for the people and see what we can learn from this message today.

God calls us to show kindness to those who are being treated unfairly.

Each child will need:

- An A3 sheet of paper, coloured paper large enough for a hand/footprint, scissors, glue and pens/pencils
- Explore It ideas handout

You will need:

- Fruit of the Spirit poster: Kindness download from Salvationist
- Memory verse poster (from Session One)
- Zechariah 7:9-10 poster



Start it

Start with an activity to help the children think about what the word 'justice' means. A clip is provided to prompt discussion and many scenarios within the clip will help the children to think about what justice means to them.



Video

Justice - What's the Word? by Crossroad Kids' Club (4:21)

Ask:

How would you describe 'justice' to someone who had never heard of the word before and didn't know what it means?



Say:

Today we are continuing to learn about how God feels about people being treated unfairly. Our memory verse reminds us of the role that we play in tackling the injustice that we see in the world.

Memory verse

'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'

(Micah 6:8 NIV)

Sau:

We're going to use the same song as last week to help us remember our memory verse.

Song

'Micah 6:8' (Sing the Bible vol 4) by Slugs and Bugs (3:39)



$\nearrow \$ Share it

Ask:

- What was the name of the prophet that we learned about in last week's session?
- What was his message to the people of Israel?

Say:

Last week we heard the story of Amos and the message God gave him to share with the people. We are going to meet two more prophets today - but first, let's learn more about their role and how God used them in the Bible.



Video

God's Story: Prophets by Crossroads Kids' Club (3:46)

Discuss:

- What is a prophet and how did prophets serve God?
- How many prophets have books in the Bible named after them? 16
- How many prophets can you name from the clip? Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea,
 Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah
 and Malachi
- What same message did the prophets have for the people?
- What are some of the 'crazy' things the prophets did to get the people's attention?
- What good news did the prophets have for the people?

Say:

We have already met the first prophet we are going to hear from today, as we find our memory verse in his book of the Bible. Micah is an Old Testament prophet whom God called to warn the people of the Northern and Southern kingdoms. Both kingdoms had broken the promises they had made to God and Micah warned them of the consequences.

Ask:

Why do you think God always gave his people a warning before he took any action against their sin?

Say:

Micah gave the people a chance to change their ways, and our memory verse reminds us of God's message to his people. Let's share it again together.

Memory verse

'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.'

(Micah 6:8 NIV)

Say:

The people of Israel didn't listen to God's commands. Around 200 years later, God sent another prophet with pretty much the same message!



Ask:

What do you think God asked Zechariah to tell the people of Israel?



Read:

'This is what the Lord of Heaven's armies says: "Do what is right and fair. Be kind and merciful to each other. Don't hurt widows and orphans, foreigners or the poor. Don't even think of doing evil to somebody else."'

(Zechariah 7:9-10 ICB)

Ask:

- How do you think God felt when he had to keep sending prophets to repeat the same message?
- Why do human beings find it so difficult to treat each other fairly?

Say:

Both Micah and Zechariah were saying how important it was to God for us to be kind to others. Zechariah even made specific mention of people who were widows or orphans, people from other countries and those who were poor. This was because these people were often left out and not cared for by the community.

Display the Kindness sign.

Say:

There are still people in our communities who are ignored and left alone. God calls us to show kindness to those who are being treated unfairly.

Ask:

How can the Holy Spirit help us to show kindness to others?

Say

With the help of God's Holy Spirit, we can allow kindness to grow in our lives.



Explain that the children will create a visual reminder of this month's memory verse. Display the memory verse and ask the children to pull out the three main commands given by God. The commands are shown below with the corresponding art activity. The children can write the commands on their sheet.

Act justly: Draw around their hand on coloured paper and cut it out. This will represent them acting justly in the world.

Love mercy: Create a large coloured heart to stick on the white paper as a reminder to show love to others.

Walk humbly: Draw around their foot (using a different coloured sheet of paper) and stick it to their paper as a reminder to walk humbly.

Make sure that the children write on each image the three main commandments from God.





Display Zechariah 7:9-10 and read it together. Discuss with the children the vulnerable people mentioned in these verses. Are there people like this in our community today? If so, how does God want us to respond to them?

'This is what the Lord of Heaven's armies says: "Do what is right and fair. Be kind and merciful to each other. Don't hurt widows and orphans, foreigners or the poor. Don't even think of doing evil to somebody else."'

(Zechariah 7:9-10 ICB)

Ask the children to pray for the people mentioned in the verses from Zechariah and the vulnerable people they know of in their own community. Encourage them to ask God for ways that they can make a difference and fight injustice in this world.

66 Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)



September: Session 2

Showing mercy

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:Micah 6:8;
Zechariah 7:9-10



Aim:

To reflect on what the Bible can teach us about how we treat others, and think about how we can live it out



Today's fruit: Kindness



Detect/Pray

God's message, from both Micah and Zechariah, was to show kindness to others. Be a kindness detective this week - can you spot any act of kindness happening around you? Perhaps keep a note of them and pray that we see more kindness happening in the world.



Discuss

In this week's Explore It, you created a picture that showed the three main commands given to the people by the prophet Micah. Discuss with someone at home the different commands, and think of ways that you can act justly, love mercy and walk humbly in your day-to-day life.



Song for the week

'Micah 6:8' (Sing the Bible vol 4) by Slugs and Bugs



Memory verse

Children & Youth

'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'

(Micah 6:8 NIV)

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'This is what the Lord of Heaven's armies says: "Do what is right and fair. Be kind and merciful to each other.

Don't hurt widows and orphans, foreigners or the poor.

Don't even think of doing evil to somebody else."'
(Zechariah 7:9-10)



Kingdom blessings



Bible verses:

Matthew 5:1-12,43-48 Jesus teaches the people



Aim:

To see how Jesus teaches about those who face difficulties, recognising that includes us



Today's fruit:

Love



In today's session we will discover what Jesus had to say in the Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus taught people in lots of different ways. He used stories and sermons and showed them how they should live their lives through the way he lived his. We'll think about his call for us to show love to others and how we should care for those facing difficulties and injustice.

God wants us to have love in our hearts for others.

Each child will need:

- Two different-coloured square sheets of paper, plus green and white paper, scissors, a straw, glue, sticky tape, a paperclip and pens/pencils
- Explore It ideas handout

You will need:

- Fruit of the Spirit poster: Love - download from Salvationist



Sau

Today we are going to learn about Jesus and the way that he taught people.

Discuss:

- Who is your favourite teacher?
- Why do you like them so much?



- How do they make learning fun and interesting?
- What kinds of things make learning difficult for you? How could your teacher help?

Jesus understood how people learn and he used lots of different methods to help them understand what he was saying. In today's session we will look at a few examples and discover why Jesus was such a great teacher.



Say:

Jesus used a variety of ways to teach the people. One day, he gathered the disciples and a lot of other people together on a hillside. He taught them what it means to be happy or blessed. Many of the things he said went against the ways of the world. Jesus said that those who are humble will be happy and those who are treated badly for doing good will be happy.

Say:

Our song for today is based on Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:1-12. This part of Scripture is known as the Beatitudes and is part of the Sermon on the Mount.

Song

'The Beatitudes' (lyrics) by Saddleback Kids (2:34)



Say:

Today we are going to discover more of Jesus' teaching and the way he wanted the people to live their lives. Jesus gathered the people together to share an important message. This message is called the Sermon on the Mount and is found in Matthew chapters 5 to 7. Let's watch the clip to find out more about what Jesus had to say.

Video

God's Story: Sermon on the Mount by Crossroads Kids' Club (4:34)

Discuss:

- What kind of people did Jesus say would be blessed by God?
- In what ways can we show love to others?
- In what ways did Jesus show his love to others? What were some of the stories mentioned in the clip?



In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus speaks with hope and promise to the crowds. He describes those who are on the edges of society, those who have no power or voice in their communities, as being welcomed and empowered in God's Kingdom.

Ask:

How does it make you feel when you hear how much Jesus cares about those who are facing difficulties in their lives?

Say:

Jesus also speaks about how people can live in order to be part of God's Kingdom. Jesus acknowledges that it won't be easy and challenges us to live in a way that is different from those who do not follow him.

Read:

'You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbour and hate your enemies." But I tell you, love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you. If you do this, then you will be true sons of your Father in heaven. Your Father causes the sun to rise on good people and on bad people. Your Father sends rain to those who do good and to those who do wrong. If you love only the people who love you, then you will get no reward. Even the tax collectors do that. And if you are nice only to your friends, then you are no better than other people. Even people without God are nice to their friends. So you must be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.'

(Matthew 5:43-48 ICB)

Discuss:

- The people had always been taught to love their neighbour and hate their enemy. What did Jesus teach and how was it different?
- When Jesus was talking to the crowd, who do you think he meant when he was talking about their enemies?
- What do you think the people thought when they heard this new message from Jesus?
- What do you find challenging about loving your enemies?

Please note

In a way that is appropriate for your group, explain what 'loving your neighbour' is not! Jesus is not asking us to continue to tolerate abusive or destructive behaviour without setting any boundaries. We don't know what the children may be experiencing at school or at home, but we don't want them to misinterpret Jesus' words and think that loving an enemy means we let them continue to behave in a negative way toward us. Instead, we want to raise children's awareness of personal safety and to encourage them to learn about the elements that make good relationships. Please refer to The Salvation Army's *Safe & Sound* handbook for further guidance.



Loving and praying for our enemies is what Jesus is asking us to do. Jesus knew that loving those who were unkind and unfair was difficult, but he said that we could celebrate and be happy because we know we are living how God wants us to.



Say:

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus makes it clear that following him and caring for those who are oppressed might make others unhappy.

Ask:

- Why would anyone be unhappy about people being treated fairly?
- Can you think of any examples of people who might feel this way? Share them with the group.

Say:

Sadly, in some places in the world, the people in charge want to keep hold of their power. They get so used to having power and money that they forget about the people they should be trying to help. As we saw in the last two sessions, the Israelites forgot the importance of looking after those in need.

Ask:

Which prophet reminded them how to behave, and what did he say?

Memory verse

'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.'

(Micah 6:8 NIV)

Say:

Jesus continued this message in his Sermon on the Mount.

Display the Love sign.

Ask:

What is the message of love in today's Bible story? There might be more than one message.

Explain that the children are going to make a message of love for someone that they know. It might be for someone who is facing a difficult time or who is experiencing injustice. It might be someone they have struggled to get along with in the past or someone who just needs to hear that God loves them.



The clip below shows how the love message can be created. Adapt and simplify the activity to suit the needs of your group. The children can write a message about God's love in their hearts.

Video

Paper Heart Flower Craft (Mother's Day craft for kids) by Easy Kids Craft (2:57)



The children will need their love message flowers for the Pray It section. Bring the group together, preferably in a circle, and ask them to hold their flower. As the music plays, ask them to pray for the person who inspired their love message flower. When the music finishes, bring the session to a close in prayer and encourage the children to make time to give their love message flower to the person they prayed for.

Listen

'Micah 6:8' (Sing the Bible vol 4) by Slugs and Bugs (3:39)

Key dates (optional)

This week is the start of Fairtrade Fortnight. This campaign highlights the need for fair prices and decent working conditions for all farmers and workers around the world. We are going to pray together to bring more of God's justice and equality into the world.

Spend time praying with your group and then bring the session to a close.



Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



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September: Session 3

Kingdom blessings

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses: Matthew 5:1-12,43-48



Aim:

To see how Jesus teaches about those who face difficulties, recognising that includes us



Today's fruit: Love



Discover

To discover more about Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, watch the clip.

Let's Go: Sermon on the Mount by Crossroads Kids' Club (4:12



Share

Take a moment to sit with someone at home and share with them everything you have learned in this week's Explore It session. Read the Beatitudes from Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-12) together and discuss how you could follow Jesus' call to love others.



'The Beatitudes' (lyrics) by Saddleback Kids





Memory verse

Children & Youth

'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'

(Micah 6:8 NIV)

Kids Alive! Online - salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

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A picture of Heaven



Bible verses:

Revelation 4:1-3; 21:1-4 John sees Heaven



Aim:

To learn about John's vision, explore what some of the pictures mean and think about what it means for us to have hope in what is to come



Today's fruit:

Patience



In today's session we will discover some of what John saw and wrote about in the final book of the Bible.

The book of Revelation records visions given by God to Jesus' disciple John. It paints a picture of a world with no sadness, pain or tears. We will discover more about what John saw and the promises God made to all his people.

God can show us how to practise patience as we wait for answered prayer.

Each child will need:

- Revelation handout
- A range of media and craft materials, pens/pencils and paper
- Explore It ideas handout

You will need:

- Fruit of the Spirit poster: Patience - download from Salvationist



Say

In today's Bible story, lots of precious gemstones are mentioned. Have a go at the quiz to see how many precious gems you recognise.



Video

Learn the Names of Gemstones in English by EdMo Tests and Quizzes (3:10)

Ask:

Which was your favourite gemstone? Why do you like it so much?



Say:

In our story today, John is given a vision of what Heaven would look like if it was here on earth. Although this time hasn't arrived yet, we can show glimpses of God's Kingdom here on earth by the way we treat others. Our memory verse for this month reminds us of some of the ways we can show God's love to others.

Share the memory verse and then sing it together.

Memory verse

'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.'

(Micah 6:8 NIV)

Song

'Micah 6:8' (by VeggieTales) video by New Life Church (2:48)





Share it

Say:

Many, many years after Jesus was on earth, something amazing happened to one of his disciples, John. John was praying one day, and he heard a voice saying, 'Write down what I am showing you and share it.' John saw a picture of Jesus and wrote down what he saw, and his writings became known as the book of Revelation, which is the last book in the Bible. Let's watch the clip to find out more.

Video

God's Story: Re-Creation by Crossroads Kids' Club (3:45)

Watch: 0:00 to 0:53 '... and even sent his angel to visit a man named John and show him, so



John could write it down for us.'

- When God created the world, what was it like? What might it feel like to live there?
- What did God promise to do?
- What would your idea of a perfect world look like? Describe what it would be like to live there.

Say:

God gave John a vision of what this new world would be like. John wrote down what he saw in the book of Revelation.

Read:

'After this I looked, and there before me was an open door in heaven. And I heard the same voice that spoke to me before. It was the voice that sounded like a trumpet. The voice said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this." Then the Spirit took control of me. There before me was a throne in heaven. Someone was sitting on the throne. The One who sat on the throne looked like precious stones, like jasper and carnelian. All around the throne was a rainbow the colour of an emerald.'

(Revelation 4:1-3 ICB)

Ask:

- What do you think of the place John is describing? Would you like to go there?
- Who do you think was sitting on the throne?

Watch: 0:53 to 1:40. '... but also because there will be no pain.'

Say:

In the book of Revelation we find a detailed description of John's vision. Listen to the words John wrote and try and imagine the picture for yourself.

Read:

'Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had disappeared. Now there was no sea. And I saw the holy city coming down out of heaven from God. This holy city is the new Jerusalem. It was prepared like a bride dressed for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne. The voice said, "Now God's home is with men. He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them and will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain. All the old ways are gone."

(Revelation 21:1-4 ICB)

Ask:

What would it be like to live in a world where there is no death, sadness, crying or pain?

Watch: 1:41 to end.



Ask:

- What other promises has God made about the new world he will create?
- How do you feel about a world without sadness, crying or pain?
- Who do you think will be able to live in the new world created by God?

Say:

In Revelation 21:27 it says:

'Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life will enter the city.'

Say:

This means that anyone who believes in Jesus will be able to enter the city. It's not just people who have been Christians their whole lives; it's anyone who decides to follow Jesus. As Jesus hung on the cross, he met a man who was being punished for a crime. Even though the man only believed in the very last moments of his life, Jesus said that he would see the man in paradise (Luke 23:43). All we need to do is believe in Jesus.



Explain to the children that they are going to create their own picture based on the vision described by John. Give the children the *Revelation* handout, which shows three Scripture extracts. Read through each of the extracts first and discuss possible ideas for their pictures. Ask the children to use just one of the descriptions to create their picture. If possible, give them a range of media to complete this task and encourage them to get creative.



Say:

In today's session we read about the visions given by God to Jesus' disciple John. We read about a world where there is no death, no tears, no sadness. We pray it will come soon – but for now, we live in a world where these things exist.

Display the Patience sign.

Say:

God gave John a vision of a world with no suffering or pain.

Ask:

How do you think John felt knowing he would have to wait for this vision to become reality?



Waiting can require a lot of patience. God's Holy Spirit can help us to show patience as we wait for answered prayer and for things to improve in our world. We know that one day God will make all things right again, but with his help we patiently wait. It is essential that while we wait, we live in a way that helps God's Kingdom become a reality now.

Ask:

What kinds of things could we do to make God's Kingdom a reality now?

Encourage the children to think of an area in their life where they need to think and act more like Jesus. Ask each child to finish the prayer:

'Dear Jesus, help me to think and act like you when ...'

When each child has shared their sentence, bring the session to a close in prayer.



Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)



September: Session 4

A picture of Heaven

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:

Revelation 4:1-3; 21:1-4



Aim:

To learn about John's vision, explore what some of the pictures mean and think about what it means for us to have hope in what is to come



Today's fruit: Patience



Discover

The book of Revelation is one of the most challenging books to understand in the Bible. Watch the clip to hear a little more about John's visions.

All Things New: The Story of Eternity with Jesus (Revelation 21-22) by The Biggest Story



Share

This week's fruit of the Spirit was patience. Discuss with someone at home three areas where you both could show a little more patience. Ask God to help you to grow patience through the power of his Holy Spirit.



Song for the week

'Micah 6:8' (by VeggieTales) video by New Life Church



Memory verse

Children & Youth

'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'

(Micah 6:8 NIV)

Kids Alive! Online - salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

Revelation

After this I looked, and there before me was an open door in heaven. And I heard the same voice that spoke to me before. It was the voice that sounded like a trumpet. The voice said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this." Then the Spirit took control of me. There before me was a throne in heaven. Someone was sitting on the throne. The One who sat on the throne looked like precious stones, like jasper and carnelian. All around the throne was a rainbow the color of an emerald.'

(Revelation 4:1-3 /CB)

from their eyes. There will be no more with men. He will live with them, and 'Then I saw a new heaven and a new The voice said, "Now God's home is earth. The first heaven and the first they will be his people. God himself heard a loud voice from the throne. was no sea. And I saw the holy city death, sadness, crying, or pain. All earth had disappeared. Now there God. He will wipe away every tear coming down out of heaven from will be with them and will be their Jerusalem. It was prepared like a bride dressed for her husband. I God. This holy city is the new the old ways are gone.""

(Revelation 21:1-4 *ICB*)

will not need the light of a lamp or the give them light. And they will rule like shining like crystal. It flows from the throne of God and of the Lamb down year, once each month. The leaves of And God's servants will worship him. of God and of the Lamb will be there. There will never be night again. They 'Then the angel showed me the river the river. It produces fruit 12 times a guilty will be in that city. The throne They will see his face, and his name The tree of life was on each side of the middle of the street of the city. will be written on their foreheads. of the water of life. The river was light of the sun. The Lord God will people. Nothing that God judges the tree are for the healing of all kings forever and ever.'

(Revelation 22:1-5 *ICB*)

