

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL (11 OCTOBER)

📖 Genesis 1:26-28; Galatians 3:28 God created us in his own image

Read the 'Autumn Overview' leader's notes for more info.

Each child will need:

→ Pens and paper

Leader's note: At the time of writing we know that The Salvation Army has an online event planned for International Day of the Girl on 11 October. As you plan this session it is recommended that you include any of the material that you find relevant for your group into your session. See more here: <https://www.facebook.com/youthchildrenSA/videos/927816534383102>

'Every year on 11 October, the International Day of the Girl, UNICEF launches an annual campaign with girls to amplify their voices and stand up for their rights. This year, under the theme "My voice, our equal future", let's seize the opportunity to reimagine a better world inspired by adolescent girls – energised and recognised, counted and invested in.

As adolescent girls worldwide assert their power as change-makers, International Day of the Girl 2020 will focus on their demands to:

- Live free from gender-based violence, harmful practices, and HIV and Aids
- Learn new skills towards the futures they choose
- Lead as a generation of activists accelerating social change'

<https://www.unicef.org/gender-equality/international-day-girl-2020>

Start It

Play a noisy memory game! Ask each child in the group to choose an animal noise and action to make. For example, they might do an elephant, making a trumpet-like noise while waving their arm like a trunk. Ask each child to demonstrate their individual animal noise and action and tell the children to remember what animal everybody else has chosen.

The game works as follows: The first player will do their own animal noise, then pass it on to someone else by doing their animal noise. So, it might go 'elephant - cat' then whoever is the cat must respond 'cat - donkey' etc. If a player takes too long to respond, or passes back, or stuffs it up, then they are out!

Then play a voting game with the children, asking, 'Girls or boys - Who is best at...?'

Decide on how the children will show their answer. For example: stand up for 'girls', sit down for 'boys'; or hold up a piece of paper with either 'girls' or 'boys' written on it.

Read out the statement and give a few seconds for the children to vote. You can allow for lively debate if wanted! Use any of the ideas below, or choose your own.

'Girls or boys – Who is best at...?'

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| → Football | → Changing a baby's nappy | → Netball |
| → Cooking | → Driving | → Building a train track |
| → Singing | → Taking photographs | → Baking cakes |
| → Painting | → Washing up | → Wrestling |
| → Skateboarding | → Playing tag | → Putting on make-up |
| → Science | → Maths | → Fixing cars |

🗨 **Say:** Sometimes people can have very fixed ideas about what girls are good at and what boys are good at, or what jobs are usually done by men or usually done by women. But nowadays this attitude is changing and most people are realising that neither males nor females should be held back from doing anything because of their gender*.

🗨 **Say:** Remember what we talked about in our last session together? That there are a lot of unfair things going on in our world and that we have a part to play in stopping them. It's unfair that sometimes girls and boys, men and women, are treated differently or unfairly just because of their gender. Unfortunately, this is especially true for girls, and that is what we are going to talk about in this session - how girls sometimes face injustice just because they are girls, and what we can do about it.

*(You may need to explain what the term 'gender' means.)

Tell It

Read Genesis 1:26-28 and Galatians 3:28

'Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image and likeness. And let them rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky. Let them rule over the tame animals, over all the earth and over all the small crawling animals on the earth." So God created human beings in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female. God blessed them and said, "Have many children and grow in number. Fill the earth and be its master. Rule over the fish in the sea and over the birds in the sky. Rule over every living thing that moves on the earth."'

Genesis 1:26-28 (ICB)

'Now, in Christ, there is no difference between Jew and Greek. There is no difference between slaves and free men. There is no difference between male and female. You are all the same in Christ Jesus.'

Galatians 3:28 (ICB)

🗨 **Say:** God made men and women, and although they are different, they are both equal in his eyes. Men and women, girls and boys, are not the same and that is a good thing, because both men and women have something special and unique to offer to the world. But both genders are of equal worth and should be treated as such. Boys and girls, men and women, are all children of God and loved by him! Making sure that girls and boys are treated equally and have the same fair opportunities is called 'gender equality'.

🗨 **Say:** We talked last week about how many people in the world are experiencing unfair situations, for example where they don't have enough to eat or a safe place to live. In many places, this can be especially true for girls, where being born a girl means you are not given as many chances or opportunities as boys. It can happen to girls in countries all around the world, but can be more of a problem in certain places.

For example, in the UK everyone has access to schools and an education – it is no different if you are a girl. But in other countries it can be difficult for girls to go to school – their family might not be able to afford it, or they might want them to stay at home to do chores, look after brother or sisters or get married. If they cannot go to school, girls will often live in poorer conditions and can be less healthy and have less opportunities. But if a girl has an education it is much better for her, for her family and for her community. She can earn more money, she knows how to keep herself and her family healthy, and she can learn skills that can help her whole community.

If you would like to show the group some pictures while you talk there is a slide show here:
<https://www.elle.com/culture/news/g28989/international-day-of-the-girl-photos/?slide=6>

You could show an older group this infographic if relevant. (For a younger group you could just mention some of the statistics in a way they can understand.)

<https://infographiclist.com/because-i-am-a-girl-infographic>

Here is an interesting story about a girl in Niger that you could tell the children. Use the pictures on the website and explain the story in your own words.

<https://www.unicef.org/stories/niger-girls-take-their-shot-better-future>

Pascaline is a girl living in Niger who had to leave school aged 11 because her parents could not afford to pay the school fees. She lives in a one-room house made of clay and straw and often there is nothing to eat. She loves football and has dreams of playing football in Spain or America. Lots of girls that live here are forced to get married well before they are 18 years old.

Then a football school came to the area aiming to bring girls who were not in school back into education. Pascaline studied hard for the entrance exam and was accepted into the school; she was given all the equipment that she needed for school, for sport as well as food. For the girls at this school, the opportunity to play football keeps them motivated to learn and to do well at their studies.

The school gives girls a chance to enjoy playing sports in a safe and supportive environment, building their confidence and helping them understand their rights; this gives them new opportunities they would not have had without education.

Sing It

Sing along, and use the actions, with this worship song. Children could also use some percussion instruments.

'We are One' by Austin Stone

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mjm64dremNU>

Or you could choose to use the song from the last session again.

'Make a Difference' by Jane Alayra

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2eQlabUY68>

Action It

Ask who can remember the memory verse from the last session. Read it aloud together.

'Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Defend the rights of all those who have nothing.

Speak up and judge fairly.

Defend the rights of the poor and needy.'

Proverbs 31:8-9 (ICB)

● **Say:** When we see a girl being treated unfairly just because she is a girl, we all have a voice to speak up against this. Sunday 11 October is the International Day of the Girl. This is a day to bring attention to girls' rights and the challenges that they face around the world; it is a day to encourage girls (and boys) to make their voices heard and stand up for girls' rights.

Show the group the following video – you may need to read out the captions.

International Day of the Girl (2012) by Girl Up, United Nations Foundation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwXC53zLlww>

Discuss: How can you use your voice to stand up for girls' rights?

Ask the children to draw around their hands (or if you are working face-to-face with your group you could use paint to make a handprint) and then write on the print 'STOP' or 'STOP INJUSTICE' using a red colour. (Search 'stop handprint' in an internet image search for examples.)

Ask children to write around the pictures words describing the injustices they would like to see stopped in our world today. You could talk more with the children about any practical ways you could make a difference.

There are some lovely colouring pages here for International Day of the Girl:
<http://www.momentsaday.com/international-womens-day-activities-free-printables>

Additional activity:

An older group may enjoy this video.

International Day of The Girl 2019 by CARE International UK
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRIkA0Kx9Pg>

Following the video, ask the group: Thinking about our discussion about injustice over the last couple of weeks, complete the sentence, 'If I ruled the world...'

Pray It

Use your stop handprints to pray. Each child could pray in turn, holding up their handprint:

Dear Jesus, I pray that would STOP.

Finish with a prayer for the group:

Lord Jesus, on International Day of the Girl we pray for girls all around the world, especially those that are facing injustice. We pray for your protection where girls are facing violence. We pray that girls will be given the same rights as boys, and we pray for opportunities to be created for girls to shine and achieve their full potential. We ask for your blessing on all organisations that are working for gender equality, both in our country and around the world. Please help us to use our voices to speak up when we see people being treated unfairly. Amen.

If you'd like to, you could ask the boys in your group to pray for your girls.

You may like to share some of these blessings with the girls in your group too.
<https://www.facebook.com/SalvationArmy.WM/posts/856489028079144>

Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.