

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



WHAT IS INJUSTICE?

Isaiah 61:1-2; Proverbs 31:8-9 Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves

Please read the 'Autumn Overview' leader's notes for more info.

Please note: Session Four of October will be focused on the needs in your own community and the practical ways you can all get involved. A template and some ideas will be provided, but you are encouraged to shape this session to suit your own group and reflect your own community. As such there will be more for you personally to prepare than usual, and you may wish to start thinking about this session earlier in the month.

Each child will need:

- Pens and paper
- Something that they would use in a fight – for example, a play sword or shield (optional)

Start It

Start the session by doing an unfair quiz or challenge.

Do an Unfair Quiz. Split your group into two teams and ask them alternate questions. For one team, ask only really hard questions that they probably won't know the answer to. For the other team, ask really easy questions.

Or

Set an Unfair Challenge. Give your group a task to do as a race against each other or the clock, for example peel a satsuma or draw a snowman. Make sure you have asked the group to bring any items that they will need. Split the group in half and ask one half to complete the task with an unfair hindrance, for example with both hands behind their back. Say 'Go' and see which children complete the task the fastest.

With either of these activities you are likely to hear cries of 'It's not fair!' Allow the conversation to continue along these lines for a bit – but stop before any children get really upset!

🗣️ **Say:** You all think these games were unfair – and of course, they were. The truth is that there is a lot of unfairness all around us.

Explain that in this session we are talking about the things in our world that are 'not fair' for other people. Sometimes we use a big word – 'injustice' – to describe this.

We will also think about what we can do to make a difference.

Tell It

Ask the children how often they use or hear the words, 'It's not fair!' and chat about how and why they may use them. Do they ever use those words because things are just not to their liking?

Ask if they can think of anything which is really unfair. You could split into pairs using the breakout rooms function for a couple of minutes to do this – or use the whiteboard to jot down the group's thoughts. Some examples could be:

- ➔ One child having to do all the household chores when another one doesn't have to do anything
- ➔ Someone being punished when it wasn't their fault
- ➔ Bullying, and bullies getting away with it
- ➔ Two children are talking but the teacher punishes the whole class
- ➔ A parent buys one child a treat and the other doesn't get anything
- ➔ A child has been practising really hard but doesn't get into the football team or the school play etc...

💡 **Say:** God is just: that means he is always fair in what he does. One reason that we like things to be fair is that God made us to be like him; we feel deep down what God has created us to feel. There are so many things going on in our world right now that are not fair, and each one of us could do a little something to make a difference.

💡 **Say:** The Bible uses the word 'injustice' to describe when something isn't fair. Injustice is something that God cares about very much, and asks his people to help stop it happening.

Work out the percentage of your group into a 20 per cent and an 80 per cent split (if you have ten children, split them into two with eight in one group and the remaining two in the other). Hold up ten chocolate bars to show the group.

💡 **Say:** One really unfair thing going on in our world at the moment is that 20 per cent of the richest countries (like ours) are using up 80 per cent of the world's resources. This means that many, many people in the world live without the very basic necessities of life, such as somewhere to live, clean water, education and enough food or money.

💡 **Say:** So - you guys in the small group can have eight chocolate bars to share, but you guys in the big group get only two chocolate bars to share. How do you feel about that?

Allow time for response and discussion.

💡 **Say:** You are correct. It is not fair or right that so many people in the world do not have what they need to live safe, healthy and enjoyable lives, while others have much more than enough.

💡 **Say:** There are also injustices going on in our own country and communities.

Screen share and show the collage of pictures. (Or email the collage before the session so that they can print out their own copy to look at.) Talk about some of the injustices in our world and ask the children if they can find the picture that matches what you are talking about.

Here are some examples - but do add your own, and include some facts related to your own community too. Feel free to create your own collage instead. (Be very sensitive as to which pictures and subjects you choose based on the children you are working with.)

- ➔ Many people do not have safe, warm and clean houses to live in.
- ➔ Many families around the world do not have access to any clean water.
- ➔ Many families do not have enough food to eat; even in our own town there are children who may go to bed feeling hungry because their family can't afford to buy food.
- ➔ In some countries people can't get medication that can make them better or vaccinations for their children to stop them getting poorly.
- ➔ Around the world children can be forced to go to work in dangerous conditions even when they are very young.
- ➔ In other countries around the world lots of children cannot go to school, especially girls.
- ➔ Many animals are losing their habitats due to humans destroying or polluting where they live, such as rainforests or the ocean.
- ➔ Sometimes in our own country men are paid more than women for doing the same job.
- ➔ Many people in the world are treated unfairly because of the colour of their skin.
- ➔ Many people are tricked into working somewhere against their will, and even taken to other countries and 'sold', then forced to do all kinds of work for no money. This is called human trafficking.
- ➔ Many people feel so unsafe in their own country or home that they risk everything to try to

get to another country. Sometimes people die on the journey. Sometimes, when they make it to a new country and want to start a new, safer life, they are not welcomed. These people are called refugees.

Ask the children if they can think of anything else to add to your collage.

Sing It

Sing along and follow the actions with this lively worship song:

'Make a Difference' by Jane Alayra

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

Action It

Ask: Who knows what the opposite word of injustice is? (Allow time for response.)

🗨 **Say:** It's justice. The Bible speaks about justice and the poor more than 1,000 times. One of the reasons that Jesus came to Earth was to bring about justice. When he went into the synagogue in Nazareth he quoted these words:

Share screen with the following Scripture.

**The Lord God has put his Spirit in me.
This is because he has appointed me to tell the good news to the poor.
He has sent me to comfort those whose hearts are broken.
He has sent me to tell the captives they are free.
He has sent me to tell the prisoners that they are released.
He has sent me to announce the time when the Lord will show his kindness and the time
when our God will punish evil people.
He has sent me to comfort all those who are sad.**
Isaiah 61:1-2 (ICB)

🗨 **Say:** God also asks us, his people, to make a difference when we see injustices happening.

Share screen with the following Scripture.

**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)

Encourage the children that, even though they are young, they have a voice, and they can start to identify how they can act upon the injustice they see around them.

Discuss together any ideas that they have. These could be small things like standing up for someone who is being bullied, or playing with someone who is always left out; or something to tackle the bigger issues, such as fundraising; writing a letter or email to an MP or the Prime Minister; writing to a newspaper to raise awareness; starting a petition.

Of course, something we can all do is pray about it.

If you have time, find a specific social justice campaign to tell the children about, along with a practical activity that you could all get involved in. Perhaps this is something that you could come back to in future sessions and/or use during Session Four this month. Have a look at [The Salvation Army International Development website](#).

Pray It

Ask: Who knows the famous speech attributed to William Booth - 'I'll fight'?

Read the quote below to the group and, with an older group, show them the video on YouTube.

'While women weep, as they do now, I'll fight; while little children go hungry, as they do now, I'll fight; while men go to prison, in and out, in and out, as they do now, I'll fight; while there is a drunkard left, while there is a poor lost girl upon the streets, while there remains one dark soul without the light of God, I'll fight - I'll fight to the very end!'

I'll Fight - William Booth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flQGUj70np4&t=10s>

Have everyone spend a few moments thinking about an area of injustice that they feel strongly about. Ask them to write on a piece of paper the words 'I'll fight', and then the thing that they will fight for, as in the video: for example,

'I'll fight for every child to have enough healthy food.'

'I'll fight for people who don't have a home of their own.'

Say a prayer of commitment and then ask each child to read out their statement in turn. They could use their fighting prop if they have one as they pray.

Could you film your own 'I'll fight' video using the children's ideas?

Challenge the children to memorise Proverbs 31:8-9 for the next session.

Explore It

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

