

# Explore It

## FOR LEADERS



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### THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

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#### 1 Samuel 3 The Lord Calls Samuel

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

20 November is International Day of the Child, and 30 years since the introduction of the Convention on the Rights of a Child.

'Thirty years ago, world leaders made an historic commitment to the world's children by adopting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child - an international agreement on childhood. It's become the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history and has helped transform children's lives around the world. But still not every child gets to enjoy a full childhood; too many childhoods are cut short. It is up to our generation to demand that leaders from government, business and communities fulfil their commitments and take action for child rights now, once and for all. They must commit to making sure every child has every right.' (UNICEF)

As you prepare for this session, take a moment to consider:

- How are you creating space to hear the voices of young people?
- How are young people participating in and leading in shaping the ministry of your corps?
- How are you creating opportunities for young people to speak up on issues impacting their lives in their homes? Schools? Clubs? Communities?
- How can we teach young people so they can advocate for themselves?

Each child will need:

- Colouring pens/pencils and paper
- A printout of a child-friendly version of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child (optional)
- A printout of the placard template - or they could draw their own.

### Start It

Start the session with a sound quiz. Ask everyone to close their eyes. Make a variety of noises with different objects - for example, opening a packet of crisps, a doorbell, tapping on a keyboard, a fan, a mobile phone notification, gulping a drink.

After each sound the children should write down what they think they heard. Go through the answers at the end and see who got the most correct answers. If you don't want to make the sounds yourself, you could use a sound quiz video from YouTube.

Alternatively, you could also ask each child to go and find a noisy object in their house. Take it in turns for each child to make a sound with their object off-screen and see if the rest of the group can guess what it is.

- **Say:** In our Bible story today, we are going to hear about a young boy who had to listen very carefully to hear God's voice. God shared his heart with Samuel and asked him to speak up and tell others about his message. God often entrusts us to speak up on his behalf, and today we are going to look at one of the areas where we can do this.

## Tell It

● **Say:** We are going to pretend that we are the government of a new country and we need to come up with a list of all the things that we think children need to live safe, healthy and peaceful lives.

Go around the group and ask each child in turn to give an answer. Note down their suggestions on the whiteboard. No discussion about the suggestions are needed at this point. Keep going around the group until the ideas dry up.

● **Say:** As a government we realise that we can only guarantee eight (or choose any number dependent on what you have on your list) of these things. We can write these into a new law to make sure that every child has them. So now we need to decide which eight ideas we are keeping.

Discuss together, or ask each child to write their own list, and decide on the eight most important things from your list.

You can then discuss:

- The difference between needs and wants.
- What items we consider important even though we could survive without them.
- What do we really need in order to live safe, healthy and peaceful lives?
- What items do we think everyone has a right to?

Ask the group if they know about rights. Do they know about the Convention of the Rights of the Child? Perhaps their school is a Rights Respecting School (an award from UNICEF) and could share what they know.

Allow time for response and discussion.

● **Say:** A right is something which you all have. We are all born with certain rights because we are human. These rights are the things we must have to ensure that we can live a healthy and peaceful life, everywhere in the world. They are the things we need, or should be able to have, to live a good life with respect and security. In 1989 a list of rights especially for children were written down – called the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Governments around the world signed the document to promise that children in their countries would have these rights.

Show the group one of the following videos.

***UNICEF Children's Rights***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ml2dYmNCJVQ>

or

**'Rights of the Child Segment 1 - What are Children's Rights?'**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COjVj9czgrY>

(You could just watch the first three minutes)

Show the children a poster or picture of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (appropriate for the age of your group members) and read out some of the articles to the children. You can find lots of different posters if you do an internet image search. You may choose to highlight or point out a few of the articles for your children, especially if there are any that tie in with your discussion above.

Here are some examples of posters:

[https://www.crcasia.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/child-friendly\\_crc\\_poster\\_a4\\_-\\_final\\_-\\_english-page-001.jpg](https://www.crcasia.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/child-friendly_crc_poster_a4_-_final_-_english-page-001.jpg)

<http://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/getmedia/3de0f2b2-7483-42c4-9de1-46ba0d63a322/UNCRC-poster-youth-friendly.jpg>

[https://www.unicef.org.hk/wp-content/uploads/2030/03/UNCRC-Poster-EN\\_cover-727x1024.jpg](https://www.unicef.org.hk/wp-content/uploads/2030/03/UNCRC-Poster-EN_cover-727x1024.jpg)

(Perhaps email the poster to each child before the session so they could have it printed in front of them for this discussion.)

Ask each child to pick one of the articles and draw a picture to represent it. Perhaps you could ask each child to send you a photo of their picture after the session and then create a large collage of all their pictures that you could display on your church/corps social media pages for International Day of the Child.

## Sing It

Sing this song together and remind your children how special and how valued they are.

'I am Special, Loved, Accepted and Forgiven' by Elevation Kids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O72j8Cc1XC8>

## Action It

Read 1 Samuel 3

You can find a condensed version of this Bible passage here: <https://ministry-to-children.com/god-calls-samuel-lesson>

If you are reading from the Bible you could share a picture of Samuel on the screen as you read. You can find several pictures here: <https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/1s-samuel-eli>

- **Say:** In this story God gives Samuel a message to tell the priest Eli. God told Samuel what was on his heart, and he asked Samuel to speak up and share his plan.
- **Say:** We know that children are very special to God. Children are created in the image of God, just as all humans are... and that makes children very special. Today we can read a lot about God's heart in the Bible, and there are plenty of times when the Bible talks about how we should take extra special care of children and all those who are poor or vulnerable. God has great compassion for vulnerable children, and he asks us to help look after them.
- **Say:** The Convention of the Rights of the Child can help us in God's plan for us to take action in the world. When we are listening to God, we will discover that he calls us all speak up on behalf of children suffering from injustice around the world.

If you can, split into two groups using breakout rooms. Give each group one of the following stories to read - Reema or Charles - found on pages nine and ten.

<https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/620581/edu-childrens-rights-session-3-190615-en.pdf>

Ask each group to discuss some of the rights that Reema and Charles have and any that they do not have. You could focus in on the right to clean water, shelter and education and discuss how Reema and Charles are meeting those needs.

- **Say:** You have a right to be heard and to have your opinions taken into account.
- **Say:** Think back to the activity at the beginning, where we created a new law to keep children in our imaginary country safe, healthy, secure, respected and happy.

**Ask:** What one thing would you want to change in our real world to make it a safer and happier place for children - either within our own country or in other countries around the world?

Ask children to write or draw their ideas on the placard template and then ask them if they can decide on one practical action they could take to help other children who are in a more difficult situation than they are.

You could show the children some photos of other children making their opinions heard using placards. For example:

<https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/health/2018/04/03/our-children-deserve-more-protectors-demand-better-from-young-mental-health-service>

Additional discussion:

**Ask:** What would you like your own church community to hear from the children? Is there something you would like to say about the way children are included or how the church could do things better for children, both in the church and in the community?

## Pray It

Ask the children to hold up one hand and draw little eyes and a mouth on the pad of the thumb and each of the fingers (make sure it's not permanent marker though!). Hold up each digit in turn as you pray.

1. Pray for children that you know - your friends and family members.
2. Pray for people working directly with children or looking after them, like teachers, children's workers, parents.
3. Pray for those that are in leadership, such as the prime minister, MPs, church leaders who can ensure that children's rights are upheld.
4. Pray for children who are especially weak or vulnerable - both in our country and around the world.
5. Pray for yourself - ask God to speak to you and that you have courage to speak up for children's rights and get your voice heard.

## Explore It

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