



cell outlines

WITHNESS WITH THE WORLD

These Cell Outlines are written by Youth and Children's Ministries. They are available every month from our web site. For more information and other Cell resources, visit salvationarmy.org.uk/children-and-youth-resources



INTRODUCTION

Creation story. Relationship. With God, with one another, with the Earth.

Right at the beginning of the Bible we find our mandate for WITHNESS – for connection.

And for the remainder of this year we will take that blueprint for God's created order and dig into what it means for our everyday lives. Lives in which we thrive because we take time to invest in understanding our created purpose. Essential to every relationship is the connection that comes from being 'with'.

At the moment, those connections look different, but they're just as important as they've always been. This past year and the months ahead have been defined by disruption, and in that disruption the thing we need more than ever is WITHNESS – an unfamiliar but beautiful and helpful word that helps us think about what this essential connection looks like. Although how we do ministry will shift and change shape as the impact of COVID-19 lessens, our need for good and quality connection, for WITHNESS, will not.

This month, we will be exploring WITHNESS with the world – exploring why, as followers of Jesus, we should care about global justice issues and what we can do in response. Looking specifically at The Salvation Army International Development UK's six thematic areas of work, we will learn more about the different ways poverty and injustice impact people's lives.

Session One will introduce the topic of justice and explore the calling on our lives to stand against injustice and champion the cause of the vulnerable.

In Session Two we will consider how the issues of gender justice and clean water intersect. We will consider the story of the woman at the well and reflect on the value of water, both physical and the living water that Jesus offers.

Session Three will look at the importance of community and how values of unity and sharing can be transformative in the context of food security and income generation.

During Session Four we will learn more about the issue of human trafficking and what it means to see ourselves and others the way God sees us – as his children, precious and loved.

If lockdown restrictions are still in place, and you choose to run a physical meeting, you will need to complete a risk assessment form. We also recommend you read the guidance document provided by Safe Mission. Please consult your corps officer or DHQ for further info.

Over the next few sessions we are going to be thinking about **WITNESS WITH THE WORLD** with a specific focus on global justice. We will consider the biblical calling on our lives to pursue and uphold justice, and learn more about how The Salvation Army, all over the world, is walking and working alongside people to overcome poverty and injustice.

WELCOME

Scavenger Hunt

The first person to find each item and bring it back to their seat/screen wins a point. Do one item at a time, waiting for everyone to return before announcing the next item.

- * Cup/glass of water
- * Wallet/purse
- * Book written by a woman
- * Something you can eat
- * Bird (ornament / toy / the real thing?)
- * Torch

What do you think connects these six items?

In the UK, The Salvation Army International Development department supports projects which fall into six different areas. These items represent those areas.

Hold up the item you think matches the area of work:

- * Clean water (cup of water)
- * Gender justice (book written by a woman)
- * Food security (something you can eat)
- * Anti-trafficking (bird)
- * Income generation (wallet/purse)
- * Emergency response (torch)

Over the next few sessions we are going to look at these in more detail.

Additional Activity

Watch 'Justice' by The Bible Project: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A14THPoc4-4>

In the video it says, *'We all participate in injustice, actively or passively, even unintentionally.'*

- 💬 Do you think there are varying degrees of injustice?
- 💬 Is it as bad to benefit from unjust systems or passively accept injustice, as it is to actually do unjust things?

WORSHIP

Watch/listen to 'Act Justly' by Pat Barrett
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dk7If2LkKc>

Additional Activity

Invite the group to draw/create what Micah 6:8 means to them. They could use pen and paper, or whatever materials they have to hand. Alternatively, distribute [this colouring sheet](#) ahead of the session for them to complete at this time.

WORD

As a group, read Isaiah 58:6-8 and Micah 6:8.

- What would the world look like if we actually did the things outlined in Isaiah?
- What prevents us from doing these things?

According to Micah 6:8, God wants us to do what is right to other people, love being kind to others and be humble disciples.

- What are some practical ways we can 'do what is right to other people'?
- We are called to love being kind to others. How easy do you find this?
- In a world that celebrates success, what does it look like to be humble in our daily lives?

These verses, along with countless others, and the way that Jesus lived are an example we can follow and they are a call to action. Jesus not only saw the forgotten people in society, but he also sought them out and he showed them love. It is easy to intend to follow the call on our lives, like it says in Micah, but we need courage and compassion to truly live it out.

Additional Activity

Reflect on this quote. How does it make you feel?

“ The world has been created for everyone’s use, but you few rich are trying to keep it for yourselves. For not merely the possession of the earth, but the very sky, the air, and the sea are claimed for the use of the rich few ... The earth belongs to all, not just to the rich.”

St Ambrose of Milan (340-397)

These words were shared more than 1,600 years ago, yet they could easily have been written about our world today.

- Is injustice inevitable?
- Where do you find hope when there’s injustice all around us?

There is a biblical example for only taking what we need. In Exodus 16 the story of the Israelites continues, following their escape from Egypt. Now living in the desert, they grumble to Moses about how hungry they are. So God rains down manna from heaven - enough for everyone.

God specifically commands them to take only what they need for the day – more will be provided tomorrow. But fearing scarcity, some people put some aside for the next day. Overnight the food goes rotten and is inedible. Eventually, despite a few hiccups along the way, the Israelites followed the command to take only according to their need, and they were provided for in this way for 40 years.

- Why do we feel the need to hoard – to take more than we need?

God is a God of abundance. If we take only what we need, then there is plenty for everyone.

WITNESS

The Salvation Army has a long history of caring and acting on issues of justice. Let’s watch the video to see what this means to some members of The Salvation Army.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9qFITIY_kXg

- What does The Salvation Army’s fight for justice mean to you? Invite people to share their own responses to this question.

The Salvation Army International Development UK has a vision – a goal that it is working towards – and that is ‘a world without poverty and injustice’.

SESSION ONE

When we look at the injustices taking place in the world, that vision may seem impossible to achieve. As followers of Jesus we are here to bring God's Kingdom to Earth – to love and serve others, and to share the gospel so that all of creation might have a restorative relationship with God. Some people call this 'Kingdom living'.

- * Use a [Jamboard](#) to share ideas of what Kingdom living could look like in practice.

Ideas include:

- * Opening your home to others
- * Sharing a meal with people
- * Engaging in activism for charities (awareness and fund-raising)
- * Lobbying your MP to take action on local and global issues you care about
- * Starting or signing a petition. See [petition.parliament.uk](#) or [change.org](#)
- * Buying from a charity shop (supporting a charity and also not wasting resources by buying new, disposable products)
- * Choosing Fairtrade products

Read the Shane Claiborne quote (taken from *Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals*) to the group and give space for them to reflect on it for a few moments:

“ ‘Peacemaking doesn’t mean passivity. It is the act of interrupting injustice without mirroring injustice, the act of disarming evil without destroying the evildoer, the act of finding a third way that is neither fight nor flight but the careful, arduous pursuit of reconciliation and justice. It is about a revolution of love that is big enough to set both the oppressed and the oppressors free.’

Say: This quote is a call to *loving* action – to do the most loving thing even if it is the most difficult thing. To choose to forgive. To choose to go out of your way to show someone that they are worthwhile.

Close the session by praying for conviction, compassion and courage to pursue a life of justice.

Lord God,

We pray for the conviction to do what is right when the world around us seems to choose the easy option. For the courage to challenge injustice even when it means personal sacrifice, and for the compassion to love everybody.

Amen.

Additional Activity

Social media can be a learning space for social justice.

Take a look at who you are following and listening to across the social media channels you use. Could you add more social justice advocates/activities to your feed?

It's important that we get our news from reputable sources, but social media can be a great additional way to engage with issues of social justice. Follow charities (eg International Development UK!) as well as well-informed/experienced activists and advocates to learn more about specific issues that interest you.

And consume critically – you don't have to agree with everything you see or read just because the person posting has a blue tick by their name.



 **ACT** *justly*

 **LOVE** *mercy*

 **WALK** *humbly*

MICAH 6:8



In the second of our series on **WITNESS WITH THE WORLD** we will explore how The Salvation Army is working in the areas of clean water and gender justice in an international context.

WELCOME

Play the 'More or Less' quiz. Invite the group to stand up if they think the answer is 'More' and sit down for 'Less' (or choose your own two actions as a group).

1. **90 per cent of the Earth is covered in water**
 - ▶ Less – 70 per cent. (But only 2.5 per cent is fresh water – which means it can be used for drinking – and only about 1 per cent of this is accessible. The rest is trapped in glaciers and snowfields.)
2. **One million people in the world do not have access to safe water.**
 - ▶ More – 2.2 billion people.
3. **On average, women and children (mostly girls) in developing countries have to walk 2.5 miles to collect water.**
 - ▶ More – 3.7 miles.
4. **If you combined all the hours that women and girls around the world spend collecting water every day, it would equate to 400 million hours.**
 - ▶ Less – 200 million hours (that's about 22,800 years!).
5. **The United Nations anticipates water scarcity could displace 200 million people by 2030.**
 - ▶ More – 700 million people could be displaced due to a lack of access to clean water.

Water is amazing. It is essential. We cannot live without it.

It can refresh us when we are exhausted, make dirty things clean, help seeds to grow, transform landscapes and be harnessed to create energy. It also keeps us alive.

In the Bible, water is mentioned more than 700 times, from the first chapter (Genesis 1:2) to the last (Revelation 22:17).

It features in key moments in Jesus' life. He was baptised in water before beginning his ministry as an adult; his first recorded miracle was the transformation of water into wine; he walked on water; he calmed the storm; in preparing to say his final words before his death, he declared that he was thirsty; and he spoke twice of 'living water' that could transform people's lives.

Additional activity

Invite the young people to imagine they did not have access to water for a whole day. Ask them to write out or record a series of social media posts or messages to a friend detailing what they think their day would be like.

WORD

Pray with the group.

St Ignatius Loyola came up with a practice of praying through the Scriptures. It is a way of experiencing the word of God, rather than simply reading it.

Before you read the passage (John 4:5-30,39-42) to the group, share the following suggestions (adapted from *The Fire of the Word* by Chris Webb) to help them engage with the Scripture.

- * Sit in a position where you can be relaxed but alert.
- * As you listen, imagine the scene as clearly and vividly as you can. Involve all your senses; imagine sounds, smells, taste and touch.

SESSION TWO

- * Allow yourself to be drawn into the scene as you imagine it. Place yourself in the shoes of one of the characters – an onlooker, a disciple, the woman at the well.
- * Allow the events of the narrative to run through your mind and pay attention to the details of what people say and do.
- * Pay attention to your reactions. What feelings are stirred up as you experience this story? How do you want to respond to Jesus’ questions and challenges?

Read John 4:5-30,39-42.

Invite the young people to share how they found experiencing Scripture in that way. Discuss what parts of the story stood out to them. Were they challenged or surprised by anything?

When Jesus met the Samaritan woman he offered her living water, water that transforms the life and soul of the person receiving it. This is certainly what happened for the woman at the well.

Jesus challenged the woman about some of the choices she had made, but he didn't dwell on her past; he wanted to transform her future. Through her relatively short interaction with Jesus, the woman receives the 'water of life' and she goes on to tell other people about her encounter with him. She has been transformed! She felt so amazing that she didn't want to keep it to herself.

Soon everyone in her town knew about Jesus and got to experience the transformation that living water could bring.

- 💬 How could this story influence the way we share Jesus with others?
- 💬 How willing are you to share your faith with friends and other people you meet?
- 💬 When you talk about Jesus, is it a personal story or more generic?
- 💬 Do you have any fears or concerns about talking to others about Jesus? If so, why?

Additional activity

- 📺 Watch The Bible Project video 'Water of Life'
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PgmAkM39Zt4>
- 💬 What do you think of the image of Jesus’ death as the fountain of life?
- 💬 What is your current relationship with God like? Is it like a flowing river or is it dry?

WORSHIP

Invite the young people to reflect and pray as they listen to the words of Psalm 42 sung by Tori Kelly.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOIQJVMD1jU>

Additional activity

Invite the group to share any words in the chat box which come to mind when they think of water (these could be about physical water or 'living water', they could be celebratory, hopeful or words of lament). Then, as a group, use these words to create a prayer to God.

Read the prayer aloud together.

WITNESS

Water is transformative – the water of life that we can experience through knowing Jesus – but also physical water. Yet 771 million people don't have clean water close to home. What should be a life-giving resource is inaccessible or unsafe.

The issues of clean water and gender justice are closely linked because it is often left to women and children (mostly girls) to collect water. This means that the time taken to collect water is not spent on other opportunities such as education, work time with family or fun! It can also be a dangerous task due to the routes they must take and the early hours at which they must travel.

Invite one member of the group to read the introduction and another (a female if possible) to read Martha's story aloud.

INTRODUCTION: In Karonga district, Malawi, The Salvation Army has been working alongside people living in Kyungu and Kilupula to access clean, safe drinking water.

Access to water was a big challenge for the people living here. People would often become unwell with cholera or diarrhoea and the lack of a local water source was also having a negative impact on children's education.

Many of the young girls in these communities would have to spend a lot of their time travelling long distances to collect water before and after school. This would mean they were late to school and unable to concentrate once there, or even miss the school day entirely.

Through the project, supported by The Salvation Army, boreholes were drilled in the communities. Martha is one of the girls who lives in Kyunga. This is her story:

MARTHA: *My name is Martha and I'm 13 years old.*

I used to have to walk 8 km to Lake Malawi to collect water. It could take about two hours a day just to fetch water, so sometimes I would miss class. I wasn't doing very well at school as a result.

I've always dreamed of becoming a nurse, to take care of my fellow Malawians and help people. But I used to spend so much time collecting water that I didn't have time to study. It was also quite scary going to collect water.

I remember one day I woke up around 3 am to get water from the lake. Me and my older sister were on our way to the lake, when a man tried to attack us. Fortunately a farmer appeared and scared him away and escorted us to the lake. I hate to think what could have happened if the farmer hadn't helped us.

As part of the project, a borehole was drilled 100 m from my house! I no longer have to wake up early and walk long distances. I have time to study before school and help my mum with household chores.

I'm doing so much better in school now and my dream of becoming a nurse might really come true!

Water is more than simply a drink. For Martha it is the opportunity for education. With access to clean water, there is real hope that she could fulfil her goal of becoming a nurse.

Water scarcity is a growing issue. 1.42 billion people – including 450 million children – live in areas of high or extremely high water vulnerability (UNICEF, 2021). This is an issue which affects people all over the world – every continent is already affected by water scarcity.

Encourage the young people to complete a water-use diary to find out how much water they use in a week, then use it to find areas in which they could reduce wastage.

https://www.nwg.co.uk/globalassets/corporate-images/about/water003-resource-2_nw_lr_v3.pdf

The Salvation Army runs clean water projects in Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi and Kenya.

Could your group commit to fundraising for this work? One option is to take the Tap Water Challenge, in which you get sponsored to drink only tap water* for two weeks (or longer!).

**You can still eat food as normal.*

Additional Activity

Listen to the Mini Series – Clean Water episode of the Develop podcast (6 minutes) to hear about how and why The Salvation Army is working with communities to access clean water around the world. Listen on [Spotify](#) or [Apple Podcasts](#) or any podcast streaming service.

As we continue our series on **WITNESS WITH THE WORLD**, today we will look at the themes of food security and income generation and consider the importance of community in overcoming poverty and injustice.

WELCOME

Stranded on an Island: Explain to the group that they are about to be relocated to a desert island for an indefinite amount of time. They may bring only one item each. What will they choose to bring? Give them a few minutes of individual thinking time, then ask them each to share what object they would bring, why they chose it, and what they plan to do with it.

Then split up into smaller groups of three or four and invite them to discuss how they would work together and use the items at their disposal to survive.

Working together and sharing may seem like simple concepts, but they are essential to survival. We were made for relationships and for community.

- 🗣️ What are some of the communities that you are part of (this group, family, your neighbourhood, clubs/teams etc)?
- 🗣️ What makes communities work?

Additional activity

Play Book Flick (from The Methodist Church)

Ask everyone to find a book – it doesn't matter what it is. The leader shouts out a page number, a line number and word number – for example page 24, 12th line down, 4th word on that line. The young people then have to find that word in their book and tell everyone in the group. Can the group form a sentence from the words found? Play a few rounds.

WORD

Throughout the Bible we can see the importance of togetherness and unity. We are called to love other people – our neighbours (Leviticus 19:18), foreigners (Deuteronomy 10:19) and even our enemies (Matthew 5:43-44), and we are called by God to live in community with one another.

Invite a member of the group to read Acts 2:42-47 (*ICB*)

They spent their time learning the apostles' teaching. And they continued to share, to break bread, and to pray together. The apostles were doing many miracles and signs. And everyone felt great respect for God. All the believers stayed together. They shared everything. They sold their land and the things they owned. Then they divided the money and gave it to those people who needed it. The believers met together in the Temple every day. They all had the same purpose. They broke bread in their homes, happy to share their food with joyful hearts. They praised God, and all the people liked them. More and more people were being saved every day; the Lord was adding those people to the group of believers.

Read Acts 4:32 (*ICB*)

The group of believers were joined in their hearts, and they had the same spirit. No person in the group said that the things he had were his own. Instead, they shared everything.

These verses are a great example of what Church should look like, and how followers of Jesus should live.

- 🗣️ What is your best experience of working with others?
- 🗣️ What are the benefits of community, of supporting one another?
- 📺 Watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rms6KePjIZ8>
- 🗣️ What do you think of this description of the Church?
- 🗣️ Does this description reflect your own experience of the Church?
- 🗣️ What does Church look like practically if it is not a building but a community of people?

Additional activity

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

1 Corinthians is Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth. It is a response to divisions that had grown in the church, poor choices that people were making and some confusion about how followers of Jesus should live. Paul's central message is love.

In chapter 12:12-13 Paul uses the analogy of the Church as a human body – it is one but made up of many parts. Each part has an important and unique role. He uses this analogy to show people that we all have something different to bring – gifts, skills, resources – but they can be used together to glorify God.

- 🗣️ What gifts do you have? How could you use them as part of Church, and to glorify God?
- 🗣️ Which part of the body would you say depicted your part in the Church? Why?

WITNESS

The Salvation Army has seen the impact that community can have in people's lives and the transformation that it can lead to.

In Zimbabwe, The Salvation Army provides training in simple farming techniques to help small-scale farmers make the best use of their land. But it doesn't stop there. Once the farmers have gained the new knowledge, they are encouraged to go on to train their friends and neighbours, who are then encouraged to do the same. By sharing the knowledge in this way, hundreds of farmers can benefit from the training and improve their harvests. (Find out more about these projects and how your group could get involved at [salvationarmy.org.uk/feedinghope](https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/feedinghope).)

In Nairobi, Kenya, The Salvation Army is working through community savings groups to support people as they work together to lift themselves out of poverty.

📺 Watch the video from the project: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZtgYiaxyZY>

- 🗣️ What did you find most interesting about this video? Did anything surprise you?

Unjust systems mean people are often stuck in a cycle of poverty and it is almost impossible for them to break out of this alone. By working together and sharing resources, the group members in Nairobi have found a way to grow their income so they can improve their lives.

In a slum setting, such as Kibera (shown in the video), an 'every man for himself' mentality can easily flourish. Creating community in this place means that people are not only more financially secure but they also have a social network of support – a community of people with whom they can share life.

- 🗣️ What would you change about some of the communities you are part of?
- 🗣️ What would you change about the world?
- 🗣️ How can you use your gifts and interests to make positive changes in the communities that you are part of?

WORSHIP

📺 Watch 'Relate' by For King and Country
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7CnoV6P6zc>

Close the session by praying together.

Invite the group to read the following aloud as a prayer. Encourage them to read at their own pace (rather than all together). It may sound a bit all over the place but it doesn't matter!

**Show me how to stand for justice,
 How to work for what is right,
 How to challenge false assumptions,**

How to walk within the light.
May I learn to share more freely
In a world so full of greed
Showing your immense compassion
By the life I choose to lead.
Amen.

From 'Show Me How to Stand for Justice' by Martin E. Leckebusch

Additional activity

When we know someone's story and understand their experiences, it can help us to connect with them. We might not agree about everything, but we can still build a friendship and show love to them.

🗨️ What is your story/testimony?

Imagine you are at a bus stop and you strike up a conversation with the person sitting next to you. They ask you what your story is. If you had just a few minutes to answer, what would you say? Write down your response.

In our fourth session on **WITNESS WITH THE WORLD** we will think about the global injustice that is human trafficking.

The Salvation Army in the UK and Ireland Territory supports projects which seek to mobilise communities to be resilient to trafficking and support survivors. Projects include skills training for vulnerable young people in Ukraine, children's recovery centres in Malawi and Tanzania, and awareness-raising in Russia.

Human trafficking is the movement of people by means such as force, fraud, coercion or deception, with the aim of exploiting them. It is a form of modern slavery.

WELCOME

- ▶ Watch 'Stand Up' from *Harriet* by Cynthia Erivo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sn19xvfoXvk>

During her life, Harriet Tubman helped many enslaved people escape to freedom, and continued to aid the abolitionist movement by her involvement in the American Civil War. Though slavery was officially abolished in the mid-19th century (1865 in the USA, 1833 in the UK), there were loopholes and caveats in the law which enabled people still to hold others captive. Despite the strengthening of anti-slavery laws, more than 40 million people are estimated to be in slavery today – modern slavery.

The Salvation Army is working all over the world to stop human trafficking and support survivors.

We also know that emergency situations and humanitarian crises increase people's vulnerability to human trafficking for various reasons. For example, people's livelihoods are threatened, so they may accept high-risk job offers as a survival strategy; and children who have been orphaned or separated from their caregivers may be traumatised by their experiences and more trusting of adults and apparent authority figures. The Salvation Army is working to ensure that anti-trafficking activities are integrated into emergency response.

Additional Activity

Draw your mood – start the session by inviting the group to draw how they are feeling on a Google Jamboard (have a link ready to share with the group members).

WORD

Ask: What do you know about Joseph from the Bible? (*Answers might include: Favourite son. Technicolor coat. Can interpret dreams. Sold into slavery.*)

- ▶ Joseph's story is told in Genesis 37 to 50. Read the selected verses or, if you are short of time, watch this video for an overview of the story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQ7wLTBnF84>
- 💬 What elements of Joseph's story stand out to you?
- 💬 How is Joseph seen/treated by different people in the story (his father, brothers, Potiphar, Pharaoh)? And how was this different from the way God saw Joseph?
- 💬 God was with Joseph, even in the bleakest moments of his life. How have you experienced God in difficult times?
- 💬 How can Joseph's story help us to understand the issue of human trafficking today?

Joseph's story is an early account of human trafficking. Joseph's older brothers, jealous of the favouritism he receives from their father and frustrated by his somewhat condescending attitude, callously sold him into slavery. This was a step down from the murder that had originally crossed their minds!

Interestingly there was also a humanitarian crisis/emergency situation during Joseph's time in Egypt. It was this which led his brothers to find him again years after they betrayed him.

At each stage in Joseph's story, God remains with Joseph and redeems his situation. At the end of his story, Joseph is able to forgive his brothers and says to them, *'You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives'* (Genesis 50:20).

WORSHIP

Before the session:

Create a Jamboard with a 'post-it' for each member of the group (that you expect to be at the session – you can add/remove on the day). Have the link handy to share with the group during the session.

1 John 3:1 (ICB) says:

'The Father has loved us so much! He loved us so much that we are called children of God. And we really are his children. But the people in the world do not understand that we are God's children, because they have not known him.'

This verse reminds us that God created everything. He is our heavenly Father and we are his children. We are lovingly made in his image and he wants what is best for us. God cherishes each one of us for who we are and longs for us to see ourselves, and one another, the way he sees us.

Human traffickers see people only as commodities to be bought and sold. They ignore the truth of who we are – children of God, precious and deeply loved by him.

Compliment Jam: invite the group to encourage one another and share the things that they appreciate and value in each other. Use a Jamboard so people can add their words to each person's name ([see this example](#)).

Additional Activity

- Watch/ listen to the song 'No Longer Slaves' by Bethel Music <https://youtu.be/f8TkUMJtK5k>

Invite the group to spend time listening and reflecting on what the words mean to them. If appropriate, invite the group to voice prayers at the end of the song.

WITNESS

- Watch Mercy's Story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXvvYzRAIrA>

- What is your initial response to Mercy's story?
- What circumstances led to Mercy leaving the Philippines?
- How was Mercy feeling at the different stages of her experience?
- Where do you find hope when your circumstances are bleak?

One of the reasons people are trafficked is because they have limited choices – sometimes it feels as though it is better to take a risky offer than continue living in poverty. Traffickers, in their greed, use this for their own purposes.

Play the logo quiz ([slides](#))

We are fortunate to have many choices, especially when it comes to things that we buy. This is one way that we can show love to our brothers and sisters around the world – by making informed choices so that we are not unknowingly supporting human trafficking and modern slavery.

Buying Fairtrade or other 'traffick-free' products is one way we can make sure the people involved in producing the things we buy, eat or wear are treated well.

- Can you think of any ways we can use our choices to support vulnerable people around the world?

It can be easy to turn a blind eye to injustice in our world. With social media we have unprecedented access to situations taking place all over the world, but we can easily choose not to follow or just keep scrolling.

There are situations where the truth is hidden from us, but sometimes we choose to ignore injustice because the alternative is more difficult or costly to us. We need to be mindful that cheap fashion, coffee or chocolate often have a much higher price, paid by someone else. As consumers we have huge collective power. We can choose to be vocally

critical of companies, boycott their products and services, and call on them to look after their workforce and eliminate modern slavery and unjust practices from their supply chains.

Pray as a group (based on Isaiah 1:17):

Lord God,

Teach me to do what is right, to seek justice. Help me to defend the oppressed and champion the cause of the vulnerable and overlooked in society. Open my eyes to injustice. Show me the ways that I am part of the problem and help me to be part of the solution.

Amen.

Additional Activity

Trafficking happens all over the world, even in the UK. It is important to know the signs of trafficking and modern slavery so that you can look out for others, as well as protect yourselves and your friends.

- ▶ Watch the video about 'Spotting the Signs' of modern slavery:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3XHzWxN3IM>

If appropriate, share this Childline UK link with the young people. It has more information about spotting the signs of exploitation for themselves or their friends:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/abuse-safety/child-trafficking-exploitation/> **25-31 October 2021 is International Development Week.**

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Visit <https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/international-development-week> to find out what's on and how you can get involved.