Explore it

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?

Saus

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)



Explore it

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)

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

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