

Junior Church Resources

Making the world a better place – there are little differences we can all make, which we pray will make God’s Kingdom of love and justice real for everyone.



Gathering and praying together

Loving God – we thank you for bringing us together today. You are God of all fairness and love. On Homelessness Sunday, we pray for people who have nowhere safe to live, and face unfairness in life. Help us look differently at the world, and use our imagination to help other people.

Reading: Matthew 21:33-46 – read today’s Gospel passage from the Bible of your choice

Suggestion for leaders: you may like to read today’s notes on the passage on Housing Justice website, by way of background thinking and prayer.

Questions and discussion

Who can make a change to the world? (clue: we all can!)

What can we do to show God’s love to other people?

Older children: what ways can you think of that the world is unfair and unequal?

Older children: can you think of someone who made a difference? Someone you know or someone who is famous?

*Idea: children can sometimes get things right when adults have got them wrong! Greta Thunberg was so sad about the changing climate, that when she was 15, she sat outside her parliament to make people stop and think – this started a worldwide awareness! She had started even younger by changing her parents’ lifestyles!

Activity

Painted stones of encouragement and kindness – for all ages

Acts of love can reach many people, even when we start small. In fact, most good ideas started with one person starting to make a difference.

The kindness stones are designed to be in public areas, so anyone can come across them, and receive a gift of encouragement, love and a sense of inclusion in our society. As we do so, we think about people who live in inadequate housing or who have no home, and may share our own neighbourhood or local area.

You will need: a mixture of stones or larger pebbles, paints or pens – acrylic or gel (you can use normal felt tips if the stones are pre-painted with an acrylic paint base colour in advance), a variety of paintbrushes.

A simple variant on this activity might be to decorate a pavement outside your church using coloured chinks – easier to set up if you are short of time or don't have resources to hand

Invite the children to draw pictures, make colourful decorations, and include messages which might encourage someone passing by, and perhaps make them smile. Suggest they keep it simple – two or three words are very effective!

The idea is to produce the stones to leave them in a public place – anyone passing can enjoy them. We share them not just with the people we know, but with strangers.

Prayer

Loving and generous Father, we pray that these [stones] [decorations] and their messages may be a sign of your love and hope in the world. May our community be joined together and help one another in making your world a fairer place.

We pray this in Jesus' name,

Amen.

Thoughts to take away

How can we make a difference in our own home area?

How can we make a difference in our school, at home, in the groups we belong to?

What local charities work in your area to help those who are experiencing homelessness?

How might you help those charities, perhaps raising money or raising awareness?

Closing prayer

Almighty and loving Father, we thank you for keeping on loving everyone, and never giving up on us. You sent your son Jesus to help us see how you wish us to live. Help us, we pray, to see how we can be fruitful in the small ways we are able, to make your world full of your kingdom of love and fairness.

We ask this in Jesus' name,

Amen.

