

Walking with Micah: All Age Worship message:

The *Walking with Micah* project is helping the Methodist Church in Britain explore what it means to be a justice-seeking church. This All Age Worship Message is one of the resources you can use within your church to support engagement with the project.

Prayers and a sermon are also available at www.methodist.org.uk/walking-with-micah-tools. Hymn and other resources are on the [Singing The Faith Plus](#) worship planning hub to support preachers or leaders of local arrangement services.

After the service, you could invite people to take part in an activity to explore justice in greater depth and submit answers via an e-survey. Alternatively you can ask people to fill in the “*What do you think*” postcards which are available from Methodist Publishing in packs of 50. Visit www.methodist.org.uk/walking-with-micah-justice-conversations/ for more details and ideas.

Justice – seeing things another way

This message involves showing people maps from different perspectives. You will want to project these or display them in another way. There are maps available on the internet, or there are two in Powerpoint form at www.methodist.org.uk/walking-with-micah-tools with the necessary credits.

Have you heard of a man called Martin Luther King? *(get some answers)*

You have? Do you know what he said or did? *(get some answers)*

He lived at a time when there was great injustice, where black people in America faced great racial injustice.

Martin Luther King, read his Bible, and followed Jesus. He stood up, and campaigned, and prayed and preached. He talked about a dream. How he saw that the world could be another way. A way based on what he learned in the Bible, a way of fairness and justice to all.

So how can we see another way?

Look at this map. *(show a regular world map)*

Where are we? *(Ask people up to point.)* Yes! We can find Britain easily on this map, we know where it is, it is right in the middle.

But I have a question - Does it need to be in the middle?

What if we saw the world another way?

What if our map was like this? (*show an upside down map – Hobo-Dyer Equal Projection Map available at www.methodist.org.uk/walking-with-micah-tools*)

Or what if our map was like this? (*show map centred on the Pacific - Hobo-Dyer Projection World Map Pacific available at www.methodist.org.uk/walking-with-micah-tools*)

Can you find us on this map?

It looks different doesn't it? And I think it feels different. Suddenly Britain is no longer in the centre, but is at the edge, near the bottom.

Maybe as people living on this island we like that, but possibly we don't. Perhaps it feels counter to what we know and what we are used to, or perhaps you feel it represents a better view of the world?

The people now at the centre are in the Pacific islands, near the top are Africa and Latin America. The world reversed. Perhaps seeing the world like this can also help us think differently about our world.

What are the concerns of people in the Pacific islands?

What are the concerns of people in Africa?

What are the concerns of people in Latin America and the Caribbean?

Of course there are millions of different people and concerns in those places, just like here and their concerns are not all the same, but how could hearing their concerns, desires and ideas change us and inspire us?

The reality is that our maps do not need to be centred on Britain; that is just a result of history.

And we don't just need a new view of maps. There are other things in the world where we need a new view.

Our world is very unequal. Most people live in poverty and one in ten people in the world live in extreme poverty, that means poor food, poor health, poor education, poor toilets, and poor drinking water quality.

And the reality of our world is all the inequality is not the way it has to be, it's just a result of history, what people have and haven't done. We can change it, if we can see the world a different way.

Justice means following the example of Martin Luther King and seeing the world differently. Jesus taught Martin to see the world in another way and Jesus can teach us that too.

It is about dreaming with Jesus about what the world could be like, drawing that map and working toward it.