

## Walking with Micah: Craftivist session

The *Walking with Micah* project is helping the Methodist Church in Britain to explore what it means to be a justice-seeking church. This session is one of the resources you can use within your church group to facilitate a Justice Conversation. The hope is that Methodist groups will reflect together and share their responses.

At the heart of each Justice Conversation will be:

- A commitment to listen to people with experience of injustice
- Explore where God is in this, and
- Reflect on what a just, equal and life-giving world looks like

What is craftivism? Betsy Greer, who popularised the term, described it as: “A way at looking at life where voicing opinions through creativity makes your voice stronger, your compassion deeper and your quest for justice more infinite”. You can explore more at [craftivist-collective.com](http://craftivist-collective.com).

This is intended to be a 90 minute session using mainly craftivist techniques to help people to engage. Other resources – eg for youth or intergenerational groups, worship, bible or other group session are also available at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/walking-with-micah-tools/> Please use these resources as creatively as you wish.

We would like all groups to explore the questions and to feed back their answers:

- What their dream is of a fair, more equal and sustainable country or world, and
- What are the key steps needed for reaching a fair, more equal and sustainable country and world?

Please help to collect the group’s responses (through conversation, craft or both) and at the end of the session, visit [www.methodist.org.uk/walking-with-micah-send-your-response/#e-survey](http://www.methodist.org.uk/walking-with-micah-send-your-response/#e-survey) to enter their responses. This feedback will help shape the Methodist Church’s priorities for justice over the coming years.



## **Important, before you begin:**

This session has been designed, as far as possible, to encourage full participation of all those in attendance. The facilitator needs to be aware that there is a danger of people being reluctant to contribute, perhaps because of personal experience of injustice or fear that their views will be in the minority. We would therefore recommend that you encourage the participants to respect one another – particularly respecting confidentiality (where that doesn't infringe on good safeguarding protocol).

There may be a danger of some participants dominating the discussion if they have a lot to say. We therefore encourage you to circulate the discussion groups if you think this will help. You could also introduce different facilitation skills, such as a 'speaking object' (like a ball, talking stick etc.) or allowing people to write feedback as well as verbalising it, to allow maximum opportunity for all to participate.

Finally, there is also a risk that some people participating in this session will be upset by the topics under discussion, particularly if they have experienced injustices. The sensitivity of the subject needs to be acknowledged at the start of the session and participants need to be aware of the different ways in which they can seek support to help deal with issues – both during the session and afterwards. Whilst it is important, as outlined above, that participants have equal opportunity to speak if they wish, this should always be optional.

## Craftivist session – a Just World

### Notes for the Leader

*Craftivists aim to be as eco-friendly as we can. Below are a few tips that could help when planning your activity and sourcing craft materials:*

- *Use what you/your church already have in terms of craft materials rather than buy new ones.*
- *If people in your group are doing a fabric activity you can find second hand scrap material very easily on ebay or in charity shops*
- *Encourage people to bring card that would go out for recycling anyway, for example cereal boxes*
- *If you do buy new materials only buy what you need*

*If you want to collect images of justice to spark people's imagination, you could use these websites:*

<https://unsplash.com/>

<https://pixabay.com/>

<https://www.pexels.com/>

### 5 mins

#### Gathering

*Welcome people, introduce each other briefly, and share the purpose of the session:*

The Methodist Church has a long commitment to be a justice-seeking church, and we are part of this tradition. This session will explore what justice looks like, and help us to take part in the Church's conversation about what our principles and priorities for justice should be as a church. Obviously, it's a huge subject, and this is just a taster!

#### Prayer

Loving God,  
You long for justice for your world.  
You long for right relationships, for people to have life in all its fullness.  
Your justice turns tables, and blesses the poor and the peacemakers..  
Help us today to open our hearts and minds.  
Help us not just to talk of justice,  
but to feel your call on our lives to act for justice,  
In the name of your Son  
Amen

### 10 minutes

#### Reflecting on injustice

*Collect together as large a variety of images of justice and injustice as you are able. You could either print these out and leave them around the room, or run them as a powerpoint slide show with quiet music in the background. Encourage people to select or focus on one particular image which speaks to them. In pairs ask people to:*

- Describe why they chose this image. Why did it speak to them? What does it say to them about justice or injustice in the world or in our society?
- People might like to talk about whether this is something they have experienced (but they may choose not to). Perhaps they have worked to tackle this injustice

**30 mins**

### **Experiences of injustice**

*We're going to begin our reflections on what justice looks like with people's authentic experiences of injustice.*

*In your discussions, be aware of stereotyping and rumour creeping in. Some people may want to share anecdotes: be mindful whether these will help the discussion or not. Similarly your group may contain people who have experienced injustice who may or may not wish to share their personal experiences.*

*As a group, watch the short film, Speaking from Experience, at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/walking-with-micah-speaking-from-experience/> which has personal testimonies of experiences of injustice. After you have seen the film, ask the group to reflect on what they have learned.*

*This conversation will need to be guided carefully, avoiding judgemental comments or a focus only on people's own feelings of injustices. Also, whilst the films show examples of injustice experienced by individuals it is important to start putting these in the context of wider injustices present in society (the speakers' ideas for change may be used to help here).*

- Ask each person to share something they learned from the testimonies they heard. What surprised them? What one thing will they take away as they think about justice?
- As they heard individual stories and experiences, what connections did they make with wider injustices in society?

**30 mins (or more)**

### **Act Justly, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly with our God**

The prophet Micah reminded people that our worship is not acceptable to God without a commitment to do justice, love mercy and to walking humbly with God. Justice-seeking has always been integral to our relationship with God.

#### **Activity**

Take off your shoe, and draw a print of your foot onto card, fabric, clay or other surface.

Onto this, write, mark or embroider the text from Micah round the edge.

*Invite people to sit, reflect, doodle, draw, stitch, collage etc in silence for the first five minute, then sound a gentle bell, after which they are welcome to explore the prompts/questions below with people around the table as they begin to craft. The prompts/questions can be found at Appendix 1 at the end of this session - you might want to print them onto cards and leave them on tables where people are sitting.*

- ⇒ Think about the people who are trapped in different situations of injustice. Perhaps offer a prayer.
- ⇒ Reflect on what it might look like for these people and for the world if there was justice. What have you learned - from what you have seen, your experience, what we learn from the Bible - about what God's justice is like? What might a fair, more equal and sustainable country or world look like?
- ⇒ What are the key steps needed to reach a fair, more equal and sustainable country and world?
- ⇒ Reflect on what it means for you to be part of this. How can you walk humbly or tread lightly on the earth? Where should your footprints be heading? Who should you be walking alongside?

In the centre of the footprint, write, mark or embroider your dream for a just world

When people have finished, invite people to lay their footprints around the room. Ask people to walk slowly around the room, reading the different dreams for a just world.

You might want to gather these together into a prayer or commitment.

**(5 mins)**

**Close**

*Before you finish:*

- *Ask each group member to name one thing they will take away from today's meeting and how they will hope to act justly, love kindness and walk humbly.*

*Remind people of the purpose of the Walking with Micah project:*

The Walking with Micah team will be collecting together feedback from groups around the country, as well as helping the Church listen to people experiencing injustice, learning from our theology and heritage, as well as the wider Methodist family. Together we will identify the stories, principles, practices and priorities to enable us all to be part of a justice-seeking church. For more information visit [www.methodist.org.uk/walking-with-micah/](http://www.methodist.org.uk/walking-with-micah/)

*After the event you can display the footprints somewhere and take a great photograph of them*

**Please help to collect the group's responses (though conversation, craft or both) and at the end of the session, visit [www.methodist.org.uk/walking-with-micah-send-your-response/#e-survey](http://www.methodist.org.uk/walking-with-micah-send-your-response/#e-survey) to enter their responses. You can send photographs of the footprints (or a film from the event) or write a summary of the responses. This feedback will help shape the Methodist Church's priorities for justice over the coming years.**

With thanks to Anna Bland of Leeds Sanctuary



## Craftivist conversation

**Act Justly, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly with our God**

Take off your shoe, and draw a print of your foot onto card, fabric, clay or other surface.

Onto this, write, mark or embroider the text from Micah round the edge.

These prompts and questions are to help you reflect as you craft..

Think about the people who are trapped in different situations of injustice. Perhaps offer a prayer.

Reflect on what it might look like for these people and for the world if there was justice. What have you learned - from what you have seen, your experience, what we learn from the Bible - about what God's justice is like? What might a fair, more equal and sustainable country or world look like?

What are the key steps needed to reach a fair, more equal and sustainable country and world?

Reflect on what it means for you to be part of this. How can you walk humbly or tread lightly on the earth? Where should your footprints be heading? Who should you be walking alongside?

**In the centre of the footprint, write, mark or embroider your dream for a just world**