

Truth and Justice

FF06

Bible Verses: Psalm 15 1-3; Amos 5:24; Ephesians 4:32; Philippians 4:8.

To demonstrate how the children can stand up for what is true and right and to help those who cannot speak for themselves or who need support.

Bottle Knock Down

Warming Up

10 mins

 Game

Stand the bottle in the centre of the room and one chair at each end.

Divide the children into two teams, each sitting on the floor side by side facing the bottle. Number each person starting with 1 at the left hand end (facing the bottle). Allocate one chair to each team.

When you shout out a number, the 2 children with that number should run to “their” chair and throw the missile at the bottle. If they both miss, they can each retrieve their missile and have another go.

Keep a score of how many times each team knocks down the bottle.

The Point: Just for fun

Equipment

An empty plastic bottle; 2 chairs, each with a foam ball or other (soft) missile on the seat.

Truth and Justice

Getting Started

15 mins

 Drama

Divide the children into small groups and, with the help of a leader, ask half the groups to create a short sketch about ‘truth’. The sketches should show what happens when someone doesn’t tell the truth. The other half should create a sketch where something isn’t fair.

Gather everyone together and watch each sketch.

Discuss with the group how they could stand up for what is right and truthful on their frontlines.

Sum up that even though it can be hard, there will be times on our frontlines where we need to stand up for truth – what is honest and true – and for justice – what is right and fair. Not always an easy thing to do, but if we want to see a change for the better on our frontlines it is something that we will need to do.

The Point: To introduce the topic of the session through the young people's interpretation of the words 'truth' and 'justice' (or fairness) and how they see these to be relevant to their frontlines.


Equipment

None

Understanding Injustice

Getting Started

10 mins

 Discussion

Distribute some of the treats unfairly. Give some people 2 or 3 but others none.

Ask if the children think this is fair. The truth is that there is a lot of unfairness all around us.

Ask the children how often they use or hear the words, "It's not fair!" Get volunteers to explain when those words are regularly used. Do they ever use those words when something is not unfair, but is just not to their liking?

Ask if they can think of anything which is really unfair, e.g. someone being punished when it wasn't their fault; bullying, and bullies getting away with it (i.e. someone not being punished when perhaps they should be).

Explain that this week we are talking about Injustice – when things aren't fair, and thinking about what we can do to make things fairer on our frontlines.

See if any of the children with more than one treat would like to share with those who have none.

The Point: To introduce the children to the idea of injustice, and what they can do about it.


Equipment

Some sweets or fruit treats.

Speak Truth

Digging In

10 mins

 Bible Study

Either read this passage, or give out Bibles and ask the group to look up Philippians Chapter 4 verse 8.

“Keep your minds on whatever is true, pure, right, holy, friendly and proper.”

Philippians 4:8a CEV

Ask the children to pick out the words which tell us what we should be thinking about. i.e. things which are true, pure, right, holy, friendly and proper.

See if the children understand these words.

What would happen if we didn't just think about them, but tried to act in this way? What wouldn't we do? (e.g. we wouldn't tell lies, do anything wrong, be unfriendly etc.)

If we always thought about the truth, and didn't tell lies, what difference would that make to our frontlines? Do the children think that would encourage others to tell the truth?

What else can we do to encourage others to be truthful?

Some ideas may be:

If our friends are going to tell a lie, ask them not to;

Tell our friends that telling lies is wrong;

Encourage people to be brave, as telling the truth might be scary;

Saying that the truth will come out in the end.

The Point: To encourage the children to be truthful and to help others to tell the truth.


Equipment

Bibles or a copy of the verse Philippians 4:8(a) CEV

Fighting Injustice

Response

10 mins

 Craft Ideas

Depending on the abilities of the members of the group, you may want to want to prepare some of this craft activity in advance.

Cut the card to make bookmarks.

The children can colour their bookmarks, draw a picture or write on them the words "I will stand up for truth and injustice".

You may want to prepare the words in advance so the children just have to stick them on to their bookmarks.

The Point: To provide the children with a reminder of the session, which they can take home.


Equipment

Card, scissors, coloured pens

Prayer Tree

Response

10 mins

 Prayer

Give out the small pieces of paper and pens.

Ask the children to think about any situation on their frontline where they may need to stand up for truth and justice.

They should write down a few words to describe the situation and stick the pieces of paper on the branches, like leaves.

At the end of the session, ask everyone to come and stand by the tree. Say a prayer for all the situations on the tree.

The Point: To encourage the young people to support each other and the hard situations they face on their frontlines through prayer.


Equipment

A container/vase with lots of thin tree branches in it, or a large sheet of paper with a picture of tree branches; small pieces of paper and pens.

Whatever Is ...

Response

10 mins

 Memory Verse

The Memory verse is:

“Keep your minds on whatever is true, pure, right, holy, friendly and proper.”

Philippians 4:8a CEV

Give out the pieces of paper, one per child if you have enough children. See if they can sort the pieces to get the words in the right order.

Once the words are in the right order, say the verse together.

The Point: To encourage the young people to memorise Scripture as a means of encouraging themselves on their frontline.

Equipment

The memory verse with each word written out on a separate piece of paper

Quick Cartoon.

Response

15 mins

 Craft Ideas

For this activity the children can work either individually or in small groups.

Ask the children to think about the times in a day that they reject people, and why they might do that. For instance, boys might not want a girl to play football with them, you may refuse to kiss your mum goodbye outside school, you might not want someone to play with you for a specific reason – perhaps you don't like the language they use, or perhaps your mum thinks they are a bad influence!

Talk about how we can “reject” people in a kind way that doesn't make them feel bad about themselves. (For instance, make another arrangement with that person for later.)

Ask each group/individual to create a cartoon strip in which someone is rejected, but rejected in a kind way that doesn't leave them feeling bad about themselves!

Display the cartoons somewhere if possible.

The Point: This activity helps the children to think about how we could be kinder to people when we need to say “no” to them.

Equipment

Paper and pens.

Rainforest Stick

15 mins

 Craft Ideas

Paper tubes have a spiral seam. Use a marker to draw dots about 2 inches apart, all the way down the spiral seam of the tube. Poke a nail all the way in at each dot. (Make sure the nails don't poke through the other side of the tube.) You'll need about 15 nails for each paper towel tube. This could be done before the group members arrive if you are concerned about safety.

Wrap tape around the tube to hold the nails in place. Cut two circles of paper just a little bigger than the ends of the tube. Tape one of the circles over one end of the tube. Cover the circle with tape so the whole end of the tube is sealed shut.

Put a handful of rice or beans into the open end of the tube. Cover the open end with your hand, and turn the tube over. Add more rice or beans until you like the sound. (Beans will make a harder sound, and rice will make a softer sound.) Put the second circle of paper over the open end of the tube, and seal that end shut with tape.

Your rain stick is complete. Now all you need to do is decorate it!

Turn it over and listen to the rain. Imagine you are in a rain forest with lots of frogs!

The Point: Just for fun.

Equipment

Cardboard tube (a paper towel roll is okay, but a long tube from gift-wrapping paper is even better. You can also take two or three paper towel rolls and tape them together.) Marker . About 60 1-inch nails. Tape (masking or packing tape is good). Paper. Rice and/or small beans (uncooked!). Green paper and felt to decorate. Glue. Scissors.
