

YOUTH RESOURCES

15-18



SESSION 1

COMMUNITY
& GLOBAL
ENGAGEMENT

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ENGAGE LOCALLY & GLOBALLY – SESSION 1



INTRO

In today's session we're looking at WHY it's important for us as Christians to look beyond ourselves and our own lives and to engage with our community and world. We're looking at what Jesus has to say about who God is, about people in need, issues of justice and what we should do about it all. We'll also pray together about these things today, and in our next session we'll get into why and HOW we should speak up and take action on creation care.



GAME

Today's session is about opening our eyes to notice and pay attention to the needs of others.

For a fun starter – why not play a game of Signs which is all about spotting the sign someone is giving you and passing it on. Here's an written guide on how to play Signs: <https://www.jubed.com/view/Signs>

Or here is a video that explains the game: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqd-SCRxbYKU>

You can play this sitting or standing, with new or well known members in a small or large group.



BIBLE

Read Luke 10:25–37 together

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+10%3A25-37&version=NCV>

- In this passage the Priest and the Levite will have been people who were significant in the leadership and running of the temple. That's similar to our church leader and a really involved church volunteer.
 - How would you have expected (or hoped) they would have reacted when they saw the man who was robbed?
 - Seeing them just walking past – how does that make you feel, what do you think of that?
- The Samaritan sees that the man needs help and helps him – for whatever reason the Priest and Levite didn't.
 - Why do you think the Priest and Levite didn't help?
 - In what ways do we justify ourselves not helping in our community when we see someone in need?
 - Why do you think the Samaritan did help?
 - Have a think now about your normal week – where do you see someone who needs help? What is one way you could 'cross the street' and help them this week? (share how this has gone together in your next session)
- Samaritans were part Jewish, and the Jews did not view them as truly Jewish – Jews and Samaritans hated each other. So this story was probably challenging to hear from Jesus for the Jews listening and the Jewish teacher of the law.
 - What do you think Jesus was trying to teach him through this story?
- In our society today we still have many prejudices and biases
 - What are some of the prejudices we hold (big or small), or are in our wider community and society?
 - Take a moment together to ask God to forgive you for these and to help you love others as he has called you to, seeing them as loved by Him and made in His image
- In this story Jesus shows how 'that person' we don't expect him to work through can be exactly the person he shows his love to and through. Who is 'that person' for you i.e. who is the person in your life you don't expect God to use to show his love? Maybe it's someone at school, in your family, in government?
 - Pray for them!



BIBLE CONTINUED

Read Matthew 25:31–40 together

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A31-40&version=NCV>

- What stands out? What is the main message of this passage?
- From both of these passages of Jesus's teaching, what do we learn about what God is like? What does he care deeply about?
 - How does he want us to live?
 - How does that connect to how God calls us to care for creation?

Both of these passages show us Jesus is deeply moved by suffering and injustice – he changes our hearts so that we are moved by it too. He shows us how to love God and love our neighbour and equips us to do it. He calls us to get involved in our communities and the wider world showing compassion that comes from God to those in need, helping them and being generous.

As Christians we care about the environment because God created it, it is a gift to be enjoyed and He has made it our job to take care of it. But also we deeply care because when we damage the environment, other people suffer – right now and into the future – and God calls us to 'cross the road' like the good Samaritan, not turn a blind eye like the Priest and Levite.



EXTRA RESOURCES

Watch this Bible Project video together before or after your Bible study to dig deeper into the compassionate nature of our God: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-JEtyAiAQik> (5.05 mins)



*"And he passed in front of Moses,
proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the
compassionate and gracious God, slow to
anger, abounding in love and faithfulness"
Exodus 34:6 (NIV)*





PRAY

Today our action is to pray. Prayer is powerful and changes things! And as we pray God moves our hearts to care for what he cares about, and inspires us with creative ideas of how to respond.

You might like to watch this video together where Pete Grieg shares how to pray for issues of justice focussing on Climate Change: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dEV2XTZhCbs>

Set up:

- Make 3 prayer areas (one for each story) using these stories of change which are good for people and for the environment.
- Print each of them off and put paper, or post it note, and pens by each of them for writing prayers.
- Give a visual depiction of where these countries are e.g. print off a map of Africa and highlight the countries on this or add markers on a world map.
- If you're able to, place the suggested item next to each of the stories as stated below, to further help the young people picture each of these people and the issue they are praying for.
- Set the atmosphere you find most helpful to pray in e.g. dim lighting, worship music playing quietly, fairy lights or candles lit.

You may want to move about the prayer stations individually, writing out your prayers or praying silently in your heads, or you might like to break into small groups and pray out loud together – whatever you choose, explain to the young people, and spend some time praying together now.

Note to youth leader: Feel free to substitute these stories with newer ones or with prayer information from global or environmental partners you already have as a church.



PRAY CONTINUED

Transformation of land in West London – some rubbish and a bird feeder

A Rocha UK reserve (Wolf Fields in West London) was a neglected wasteland used only for rubbish dumping, drug taking and substance abuse. A Rocha UK has transformed it into a wildlife friendly space beneficial for people too. Pray for the continuing impact on the local community: <https://arocha.org.uk/our-activities/practical-conservation/wolf-fields/>

Cleaner, lower carbon cooking in Uganda – a large basket with a blanket inside

Carbon offset funds provided by people in the UK are used to create carbon neutral solutions in the developing world which also improve health and life for people like Eseza in Uganda: <https://www.climatestewards.org/projects/uganda-fireless-cookers/>

Floods in South Sudan – a toy boat or canoe

Losing home and hope due to flooded homes and fields: <https://www.tearfund.org/stories/2021/09/the-rains-wont-stop-no-escape-from-floods-in-south-sudan>

Instructions to the young people:

Each of these stories is from the lives of different people in African countries being hit hard by worsening weather due to Climate Change.

Read each of them in turn, pray for the people and the countries named.



WORSHIP

Youth leader note: if you want to continue this time of prayer into a time of worshipping God in song, here are some song suggestions that fit well to the themes we've looked at. If you have ideas of your own, amazing! Use those.

Tim Hughes

- God of Justice <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ervz11HibSk> (4.47 mins)
- Living for your Glory <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WjS1TX3ImuY> (4.05 mins)

Build My Life – Housefires (performed by Pat Barrett and Cory Asbury) (4.23 mins)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZW4_8_zCBE

Build Your Kingdom Here – Rend Collective <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-qZX08DDWiA> (4.16 mins)

