

Children's Resources



“The Lord has told you what is good...
do what is right to other people,
love being kind to others and live humbly,
trusting your God.”

Micah 6:8


Presbyterian
CHURCH IN IRELAND

Youth & Children's Project
2015/16

Explanations for the 2 Project locations:

International Justice Mission in Africa

Throughout the developing world, the threat of violence is part of everyday life for the poor; as much a part of poverty as hunger, disease or homelessness.

International Justice Mission protects the poor from violence by partnering with local authorities to rescue victims, bring criminals to justice, restore survivors and strengthen justice systems. They combat issues such as slavery, sex trafficking and property grabbing.

This Project will be supporting IJM's work in Africa, especially in the Ugandan and brand new Ghanaian field offices. The Project focuses on the stories of Grace and her children who are victims of land-grabbing in Uganda, and some boys (who cannot be identified for their own safety) who were rescued from slavery from the fishing industry in Ghana. These stories are of individuals but reflect the experience of many in these countries. IJM seeks to rescue and then represent these individuals, and many like them, to bring justice and restoration to their lives.



Presbytery of Derry and Donegal

The Derry and Donegal Presbytery has a real desire to see a Presbyterian witness established within the University area of the city of Londonderry.

The former Strand Road congregation closed in 2010 and the building, although used by some for various activities, has mainly been empty since then. In recent months, a small group called "Deep" has been meeting on a Sunday evening and is connecting with some students in the area. The vision is to see the old Strand Road building re-opened and used to service the student population by providing lunches, music opportunities, small groups and more.

The Project would help to fund the work on the building in order to allow this vision to be fulfilled, along with funds promised by the Presbytery. The desire is to see home and overseas students reached with the Gospel and ministered to within the heart of the city of Londonderry. We want to change the world in this small location in a way that will make a massive difference to many people.



Change our world

Introduction for leaders

“The Lord has told you what is good...do what is right to other people, love being kind to others and live humbly, trusting your God.” Micah 6:8

When we talk about Noah in the Bible, most people will think of arks and floods and lots of animals. But there is another Noah mentioned in the Old Testament. She was one of five sisters whose father had died and left them with no inheritance. When a man died in those times, the land that they owned went to the closest male relative. When Noah's father died, the land was to be given to a distant relative which would have left the sisters poverty-stricken as they had no brothers to look after them. Noah and her sisters went to Moses and pleaded with him to let them keep their father's land so they would not be destitute. Moses took their case to God who said, "What [they] are saying is right. You must certainly give them property as an inheritance among their father's relatives and give their father's inheritance to them". They presented their case, God listened and as a God of justice, he gave them what they deserved to be able to survive as a family.

The Bible is full of examples of God caring for those who have less than others or who have no voice to be heard. He calls us as His followers to also care for those who have little.

In our world, there is so much that is unjust, so many people who do not have enough. As a children's ministry leader, you have an amazing opportunity to inspire the children within your group to take up the challenge to change our world the way that God calls us to. Not everyone is able to speak up for themselves the way Noah and her sisters were able to. Some people need help. Through our Project this year, we want to be able to support those who speak up for those who have no voice and to bring freedom to people who are in slavery. We want to make a difference and change our world.

This lesson is laid out to help the children in your children's ministry to explore some of the issues of injustice. You will share the story of Noah and her sisters with the children and also Jesus calling the first disciples and think about what they can do to make a difference. The children will then have the opportunity to respond in different ways to help children and young people both at home and overseas who seek justice.

You will need:

- Items for making weighing scales
- Bibles for children to use
- DVD from Project pack or downloaded from the website
– videos and other resources
- Template of Strand Road floor plan
- Pens/pencils



Introductory activities

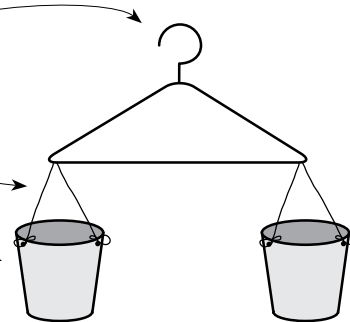
Show the introductory video for the Project.

This can be found on the accompanying DVD.

Make a set of weighing scales

You will need:

- Coat hanger
- String
- Yoghurt pots or plastic cups
- Weights from kitchen scales, or lumps of modelling dough measured to weigh different amounts
- Small items to weigh



Tie the two pieces of string at either end of the coat hanger. Attach the yoghurt pots or plastic cups by piercing a hole in the rim at either side and passing the string through before tying. Put different weighted objects in the yoghurt pots or plastic cups to try and balance the scales.

Explain: Weighing scales have been used as the symbol of justice for a long time. Justice is when people get what they deserve. For example if someone does something really bad they get punished or if someone does something good they get rewarded.

Injustice is the word that is used to describe it when people are not treated the same. This is when people are treated differently even when they have done the same thing, good or bad. For example, someone who is well known gets away with doing something wrong and not being punished, while someone else gets punished for doing the same thing; or someone in school gets rewarded for doing something else and when you do the same thing no one notices.

Ask:

- How hard is it to be fair?
- Where do you see unfair situations happening in the world today?
- What might make them fairer?

In this session, we are going to look at two modern day stories of injustice and think about what we can do to help. Sometimes people who live in other places are not allowed to speak for themselves and need some help to have their voice heard and make their world better. We are going to think about how we can change our world to be a better place to live, to be a place more like God wants it to be.

Firstly we are going to see what the Bible says.

Noah and her sisters

Bible focus

Say: We all know the story in the Bible about Noah and the ark. But did you know that there is another Noah in the Bible? The other one is a girl and she did not build an ark but she spoke up when there was injustice.

This Noah lived in the time of Moses. She and her family had travelled through the desert during the 40 years that the Israelites were there. While they were in the desert, her father died. In those days, when the father in a family died the only people to inherit all his possessions were sons. Noah didn't have any brothers though. There was only her and her 4 sisters.

Let's read what happened in Noah's story in Numbers 27:1-8,11.

Ask:

- How do you think Noah and her sisters felt going to see Moses?
- Why do you think God decided that Noah and her sisters should inherit her father's land?
- Do you think this was fair? (Encourage the children to think about this. What about the other daughters in other families who had not inherited before. How would they feel?)

Explain: According to the law, Noah should not have received the property that belonged to her father but she and her sisters spoke up. God saw the injustice and changed the law that the people followed.

In some places in the world today, the law may allow them to inherit land but sometimes others try to take that from them. This especially happens to widows and orphans whose voices and needs are often ignored and who are too poor to pay someone to help them.

Thankfully there are people in our world who do not want injustice and unfairness to be in our world. They help those who are poor to speak up and to help make the world a fairer place for everyone. One of those groups is called the International Justice Mission, or IJM for short.

IJM has staff who are trained to go to court to make sure that people who have stolen land have to give it back, they support those who have had their land stolen and they help afterwards as they try to rebuild their lives.

Numbers 27:1-8, 11

Zelophedad was the son of Hopher. Hopher was the son of Gilead. Gilead was the son of Makir. Makir was the son of Manasseh. Zelophedad's daughters belonged to the family groups of Manasseh son of Joseph. The daughter's names were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah and Tirzah. They went to the entrance of the Meeting Tent. There they stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the leaders and all the people. They said, "Our father died in the desert. He was not one of Korah's followers who came against the Lord. Our father died because of his own sin. But he had no sons. Our father's name will die out because he had no sons. Give us property among our father's relatives."

So Moses brought their case to the Lord. The Lord said to him, "The daughters of Zelophedad are right. They should get what their father owned. Give them property among their father's relatives."

"Tell the Israelites, 'If a man dies and has no sons, then everything he owned should go to his daughter....this should be a rule among the people of Israel because the Lord gave this command to Moses.'

Timothy and Grace

One person who had their land stolen was a boy called Timothy who lives with his mum Grace, his brothers and his sisters.

Let's listen to or watch their story and how IJM helped them.

For leaders: on the accompanying DVD there is a video of Grace's story. This would be best for upper primary/national aged children as they need to be able to read the subtitles to understand what Grace is saying. There is also a PowerPoint presentation with photos and a transcript of Grace and Timothy's story which can be used with younger children or if you are not able to show the video.

- PowerPoint and story of Timothy (Keystage 1)
- Video of story (Keystage 2)

Ask:

- How would you feel if you were Grace or Timothy when your land was taken?
- I wonder what it was like for Grace and Timothy whenever IJM helped them to get their land back. What do you think?

We are going to look at another story of injustice but firstly another story from the Bible, from the life of Jesus.

Calling of the first disciples

Say: When Jesus lived on earth and travelled around teaching the people, He chose some friends to help Him. These men were not only going to travel with Him in all that He did and keep Him company, but Jesus was going to teach them in a way that meant when He was no longer there, they could carry on His teaching and lead the first church. They were going to have a special job and so He needed to choose special people.

Ask: What sort of people would you choose to make a team that was going to do something special? What would you want them to be able to do?

Allow the children to come up with answers. You may want to have a few ideas in case they need some prompting.

Explain: When Jesus was choosing His team, He did not choose the people that would have been expected. He started with some men who worked on the local lake in boats. Let's read and see who they were.

Read the passage Matthew 4:18-22

Matthew 4:18-22

Jesus was walking by Lake Galilee. He saw two brothers, Simon (called Peter) and Simon's brother, Andrew. The brothers were fishermen, and they were fishing in the lake with a net. Jesus said, "Come and follow me. I will make you fishers of men." At once Simon and Andrew left their nets and followed him.

Jesus continued walking by Lake Galilee. He saw two other brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets to catch fish. Jesus told them to come with him. At once they left the boat and their father, and they followed Jesus.

Ask:

- What sort of things do you think the fishermen would have been good at on Jesus' team?
- How do you think James' and John's father Zebedee felt when his sons left to follow Jesus?

Say: Fishing would have been a good business to be involved in when the disciples lived in Galilee. They, however, saw that following Jesus was going to be even better. So when He called them, they left their nets and went with Him. At different times in the stories of the Gospels, Jesus and the disciples ended up in boats again but their primary activity from now on was being with Jesus.

The disciples made a choice to leave their boats and were free to do something different that they knew was important. There are other people in the world who work in the fishing industry on boats who do not have that freedom. IJM is working with them too through their newest location in Africa in the country of Ghana.

Ghana

Say: In Ghana there are boys who work on fishing boats just like Jesus' disciples did when He told them to follow Him. Some of these boys are not there by choice though and IJM has been involved in helping them too.

Let's hear their story.

For leaders: on the accompanying DVD there is a transcript of the story of the boys on Ghana and a PowerPoint with photographs to help the children see what their life is like. For protection reasons, there is no video footage of these stories as yet. The photographs are of boys on Lake Volta but may not be the boys in the story, and in fact may not be slaves. They are however representative of the boys that are being rescued. This situation is very new and at this early stage there is a lot of sensitivity over disclosure of identities. Show these photos and tell the story.

- PowerPoint and story of the boys in Ghana (Keystage 1&2)

Ask:

- What do you think it would be like to work on the fishing boats?
- Why do you think some of the boys who work on the boats have ended up as slaves? (*they may have run away, sold by their families because they needed money, their families thought they would get an education, orphans*)
- What do you think God would want us to do to help these boys?



Students in Londonderry

Say: Sometimes there are churches in the Presbyterian Church which have to close for different reasons. One reason for this may be because the congregation has grown too small. The people in that church then are joined with another local congregation. One of these churches is in Londonderry and was called Strand Road Presbyterian. The church there closed in 2010 and the people who went to church there joined with Carlisle Road Presbyterian which is nearby.

Recently the old building is being re-used and there has been some work with students taking place. The building is very near the University and local Regional College, the cinema and a lot of places where students may spend time. The local Presbytery has a dream of making the church buildings useable so that it can reach students and show them God's love through different activities.

Ask: If you had a building that lots of students might walk past, what sort of things would you do so that they might come in? Allow the children to come up with some ideas. (Feel free to send some of their ideas into the CCLW office and we will pass them on!)

Say: Those involved are thinking about running student lunches, having meeting spaces for small groups and using the building as a music and recital space.

Activity: You will need: copies of the Strand Road template, pens/pencils

Explain: The vision for the Strand Road building is very early in the planning. They are looking for ideas that they can use to reach students and encourage them to come in to the building.

What would you do if you were in charge of the planning?

Encourage the children to take a copy of the layout of the church and draw/write what they would do in each space. Explain that these ideas may not be the ones that are used. If you send in the drawings we will forward them to the people who are looking at the plans or your group may want to come up with one plan to send in. (See page 10 for template). A PowerPoint presentation of photos is available on the accompanying DVD to see what the rooms currently look like.

If the children are unsure or need some help, here are some things to ask:

- What do you think the students might need?
 - small groups, gigs, lunches, meeting space, study space
- Where do you think people will park if they come to the church building?
- What other people could use the building during the week as well as students?
 - community groups, recital space for music classes, toddlers' groups, language classes

Memory verse

Explain: In the Bible, right from the beginning, God commands us to help people who have less than us and to care for all around us. In Micah, where our memory verse is from, God says that being good is about doing what is right to other people, being kind to others and trusting God.

Activity: Learn the following verse with the children:

“The Lord has told you what is good...do what is right to other people, love being kind to others and live humbly, trusting your God.” (Micah 6:8)

For leaders: There are lots of ways that you can teach this verse, either with a single Sunday school class or with all the children together. If you are working with small children do not necessarily expect them to be able to learn the whole verse though they may try – and succeed! However make sure that they understand the meaning of it and what God is asking them to do. Ways to learn the verse may include: have the words written out for the children to read and then slowly cover different parts up; read the words in normal voice, then quiet voice, then loud voice to help learn through repetition, etc.

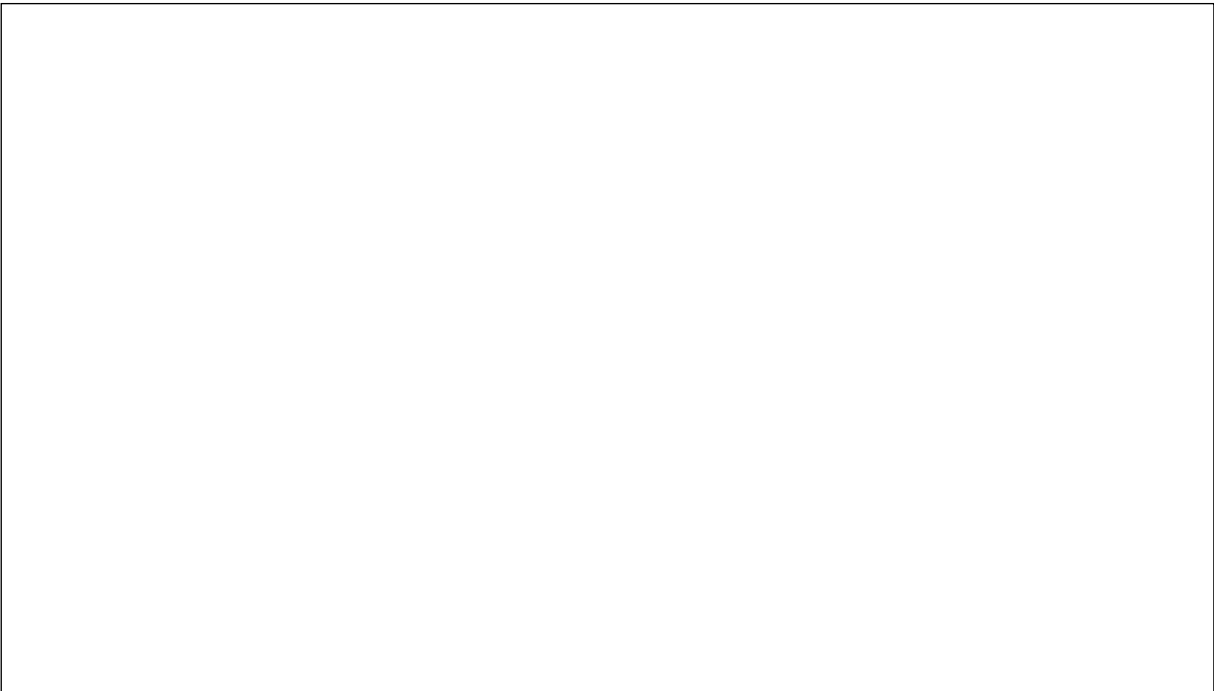
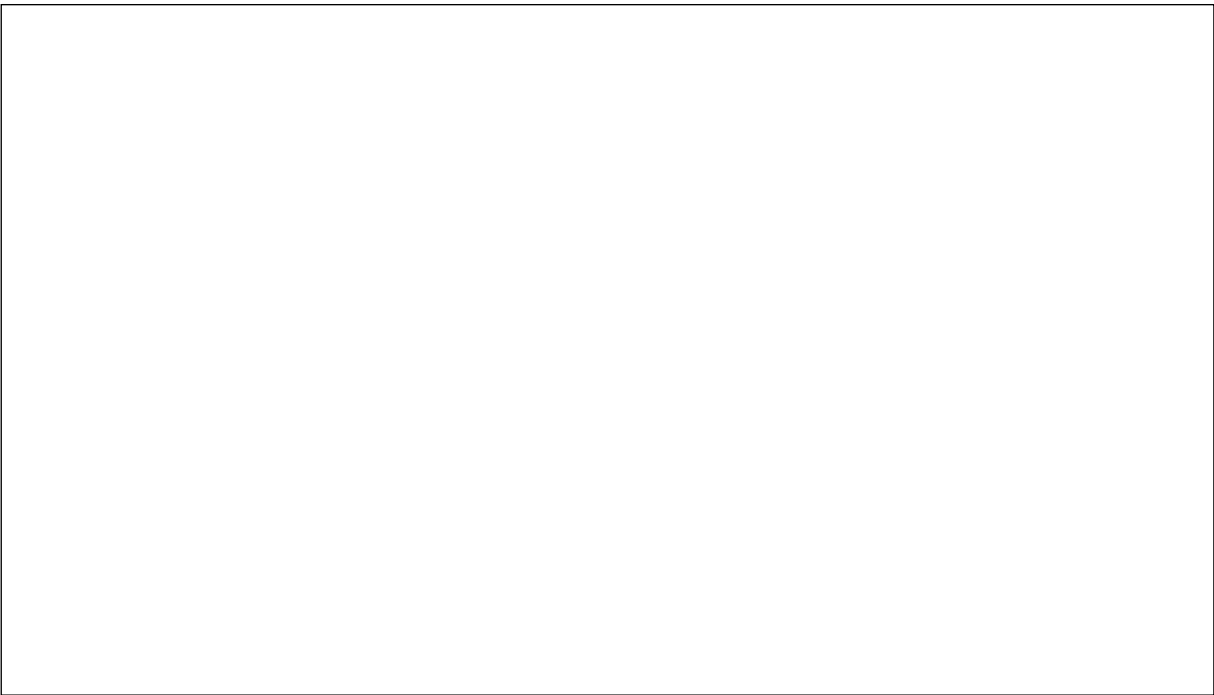
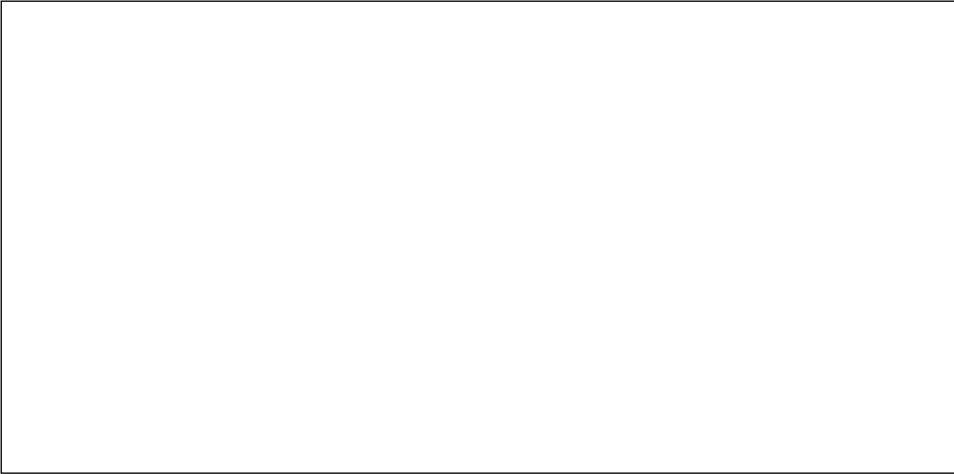
Ask: This verse was written a very long time ago by a man called Micah who was a prophet. He lived so long ago it was even before Jesus was born. What he said though is still important for us to know today. What do you think this might mean for us? What sort of things can we do to obey what God is telling us in this verse?

Say: One way we can live out the verse is raising some money for the Project to support IJM and the Strand Road outreach.

For leaders: Decide as a class or Sunday school what you can do to raise some money to support the Project. If you need some ideas, see the inside cover of this booklet for a list.

To finish the session watch the video on the accompanying DVD called “Kids Dream Big”. Remind the children that even though they are small they can dream big dreams and they can play a part in helping God to change our world.

**Change
our world**



Fundraising ideas

Family Fun Day • Coffee morning • Pancake Night • Talent Auction • Concert • Barn Dance • Craft Fair • Sponsored Sing • Victorian Tea party • Car Boot Sale • Cake Sale • Ice-Cream Sundaes • Table Quiz • Art Competition • Indian Themed night • Bag Packing • Movie Night • Curry Night • Car Wash • Treasure Hunt • Sponsored Walk • Church Picnic • Church Breakfast • Smartie Tubes • Christmas Card Delivery • Christmas Gift Wrapping • Barbeque • Sponsored Go Without any Electronic Devices for a week • Helping Hands (parents pay children for jobs at home) • Sell bedding plants and flowers

Children and money

Often in church, we either exclude children from giving money or we do not teach them what it means. One of the important parts of the Youth and Children's Project is the raising of money to help support the locations that we are highlighting. We want to encourage this as part of the whole teaching of the Project.

We want children to make formative connections between giving and following Jesus.

In the Gospels, Jesus says a great deal about money and possessions. Not that He was obsessed by money itself. He was obsessed by the abundant life that He promised to His followers. Jesus knew that how we handle money can either help or hinder us in finding that life.

Ensure that you explain as part of the Project and the fundraising, the importance of our role of giving out of our plenty to help resource God's work in the world.

For more information on this subject check out

http://www.givingingrace.org/classic/preaching/children_P6.html

Personal Stories

Andy Lamberton

(Exodus Northwest and Derry and Donegal Presbytery)



Ministry is all about people and God. Not much else. The worth of people and, indeed more so, the worth God puts on people is immensely more than the worth of strap lines, buildings, organisational strategies, funding or a mission plan document. All these are an important part of planning but they are only to serve God's great commission to us, to make disciples.

As we scratched our heads back in October wondering if we should start something for students in the Derry area, we honestly didn't know what to expect, or what God in His rich mercy would do. But if in doubt, just do

something, just try. So holding onto the conviction that ministry is about people and God, we started 'Sunday Night: DEEP'. Basing our times together around Acts 2:42, we had teaching, pizza, prayer and we shared life together.

We invited students simply by saying if you'd like to deepen your faith, devotion and obedience to Jesus come along to the old church on the Strand Road from 10pm till midnight. We can discover and pray and eat together. Through our time, we've had from 5 to 30 come along with an average of 17 every Sunday night, and as we have done life together, as we have dived deeper in our faith, devotion and obedience to Jesus, together we have seen much fruit in each of our lives. I pray that this work can continue and with more gusto than before. We would love to have another consistent outreach programme to reach many students coming from Monaghan, Fermanagh, China, Germany, USA, and many other places with the Love of Jesus.

Volunteering With International Justice Mission

When you read about some of the bad things that are happening to people around the world, how do you feel? Maybe sad? Maybe you want to do something to help? At IJM, we know that God really cares about all people who are suffering, and He wants to use US (yes, you and me!) to help!

Chloe's Story

I first heard of IJM while I was studying law at university. I loved that I had found an organisation that was doing something about the bad things happening to people throughout the world, bringing hope and joy to them.

I began learning more by reading books and praying. I soon began helping out at the local office doing all kinds of work. As I learnt more, I was able to represent

IJM at different events. This year, I even organised a big fashion show and invited everyone I know! We raised lots of money to help IJM do its work.

Since graduating from university, I have been volunteering full time as an IJM intern.

This gives me the opportunity to plan many events and to speak to lots of people, sharing about our work to help people who are suffering.



IJM