

All-Age Service




Presbyterian
CHURCH IN IRELAND

Youth & Children's Project
2015/16

This is a skeleton outline of some of the things that you may wish to include when having an all-age service based on the themes of the Youth and Children's Project this year. It is based around the 3 parts of the memory verse that is the basis for the Project.

Introduction

- Show introductory overview video on accompanying DVD

This year's Youth and Children's Project is about helping people to fight for what is right. We are doing that mainly through supporting the work that International Justice Mission (IJM) do, particularly in Africa.

We are also supporting the work that the Derry and Donegal Presbytery are initiating with the student population in Londonderry, through the church building on the Strand Road.

The Bible verse that the Project is based on is Micah 6:8 which says: 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** (International Children's Bible)

Do what is right to other people

International Justice Mission (IJM) tackles issues of violence against people in poor communities, such as slavery, sexual exploitation and property grabbing. They believe that poverty and violence are inextricably linked, although this link is not often highlighted. IJM carries out undercover investigations where slavery and exploitation are being suspected. It then conducts rescues when it is appropriate to do so, supports the prosecution of perpetrators and provides aftercare for the victims of violence and slavery.

Timothy and Grace: a new hope

- *There is both a video telling their story as well as a PowerPoint and transcript on the accompanying DVD. Either can be used to tell this story.*

Grace and Timothy did not deserve to lose their land. IJM helped to ensure that they were able to get back what was theirs and to make sure they were safe and secure for the future. **They did what was right.**

Fishing boys: a story of rescue

- *There is a PowerPoint and transcript on the accompanying DVD. There is no video of this story due to sensitivities about current rescue missions.*

The boys on Lake Volta who IJM are involved in trying to rescue are slaves. They have been bought from families with the promise of a better life. But they have no life. IJM set up a new office last year in Ghana and has carried out one successful rescue so far. The money raised will go towards the continuation of this work. **They are doing what is right.**

Love being kind to others

We are also supporting the work that the Derry and Donegal Presbytery is initiating with the student population in Londonderry, through the church building on the Strand Road.

Students in Londonderry

• *There is a PowerPoint presentation on the accompanying DVD to show the church building currently on the Strand Road.*

There are about 25,000 students (full-time and part-time) based on the Strand Road in Londonderry. Recently a small group for students has been meeting in the Strand Road church building on a Sunday night and some other events have been held there. The Project aims to help fund the resourcing of the church building to allow them to offer more facilities to the many students who walk daily passed the door. **This work is about loving being kind to others.**

Live humbly, trusting your God

God calls us to live for Him in this world. He tells us to look after those who have less than us. He commands us to pray for those who are our enemies. He calls us to love our neighbour and to go the extra mile for them. This is what it is to be a follower of Jesus. **This is what it is to live humbly, trusting God.** This Project helps us in some ways to do that.

Activity

Give everyone in the congregation two different coloured post-it notes and pens to write. On one write “Thank you God for” and on the other “Please God help us”. Have them fill in prayers that finish those sentences.

Place a board at the front where they all can come and stick them as the prayers of your congregation to help – **do what is right by other people, love being kind to others and to live humbly, trusting God.**

Prayer

Pray for the work of IJM, particularly in Uganda and Ghana. Pray also for the outworking of the Derry and Donegal Presbytery’s vision with the students in Londonderry.

Finish

Show the video “Kids Dream Big” on the accompanying DVD

Family Devotion

Introduction

Place a bag of sweets on a table where everyone can see them. Share them out, making sure that there are uneven amounts given to each person, including yourself. Ask the person with the most if they are happy with what they have received. Then ask the same question to the person with the least.

Then take the sweets back and keep them for the end.

Explain

It is not fair to give more sweets to some than others, is it? What would be the fairest way to give the sweets out?

We live in a world where lots of things are not fair. Some people have more money than others; some people have more food than others. Sometimes people think they are being offered a better life, for example the opportunity to go to school, when instead they are going to be used as slaves. Sometimes the world is unfair.

God asks us to see the unfairness in our world though and to do something about it. We can do that no matter how young or how old we are. It is simply about obeying God.

Read

Micah 6:8 says: “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.” (International Children’s Bible)

We need to help make the world a fairer place by doing what is right to other people, to love being kind to others and to live humbly, trusting God to give us everything that we need.

Activity

Make and decorate a poster with the Bible memory verse on it. Display it somewhere that your whole family can see it each day. This will help to remind both adults and children in your family how God calls us to live and do right by other people.

Pray

Thank God for all that He has given to us. Ask God to protect those who have less than us and to help us live the way that Micah 6:8 tells us to. Ask God to show us how we can play a part in His desire to change our world.

