



Justice - content ideas for primary school collective worship

Definition: When thinking about 'justice', some people think first about giving wrongdoers the punishment they deserve. However, that would be a one-sided picture of justice. **Justice also means giving all people - particularly the poor and oppressed - what it is right and fair for them to have: life, health, freedom and dignity. It is about acting out of a concern for what is right and seeing right prevail.** It is about social justice, especially for those who suffer most and are least able to protect themselves. Throughout the Bible, it is emphasised that justice is immensely important to God. It is fundamental to God's character. 'For the LORD is righteous, he loves justice; upright men will see his face.' (Psalm 11:7) **Justice is not about a culture which encourages everyone to insist on their own rights at the expense of others. It is about a community that knows that everyone's well-being is bound up with that of everyone else.**

The Bible Project: Justice [watch here](#)

Questions - Do I always act fairly? Am I fair to other people? What unfair things make me cross? How can our school /community /world be a fairer place? What does God think is unfair in this world? What Bible stories deal with issues of justice?

Key Bible Character:

Esther risking her life to claim justice and freedom for her people (Esther 4)



Key Bible verse:

Let justice and fairness roll on like a river that never runs dry - Amos 5:24

Micah 6:8: The Lord God has told us what is right and what he demands: "See that justice is done; let mercy be your first concern, and humbly obey your God."

	Bible stories and verses linked to justice	Bible chapter and verse	Key message
	introductory video about justice		

1	The Good Samaritan Lion Storyteller Bible – The Kind Stranger p.104	Luke 10:25-37 video	Jesus calls his followers to see justice, not as a way of getting revenge and paying people back; instead, he calls them to forgive their enemies, go the extra mile and not judge other people.
2	Jesus in the temple	Matthew 21:12-13	Jesus was angry at the way the temple courtyard had been turned into a marketplace where traders made money at other's expense.
3	Esther risking her life to seek the highest earthly authority to claim justice and freedom for her people. Lion Storyteller Bible – Esther was a star p.78	Esther 4 watch	It took courage for Esther to tell the King who she really was. She was literally risking her life. We, too, may have to take risks when we speak up for what is right. But, like Esther, we can be sure that the results of our efforts are in God's hands - even if it costs us to do the right thing.
4	Blind beggar Bartimaeus Lion Storyteller Bible – I can see p. 110	Mark 10:46-52 watch	Jesus made it possible for him to join in. Blind Bartimaeus - people can be treated unjustly. Jesus treated someone who was excluded. All are loved by God. All should be treated fairly
5	The parable of the rich man and Lazarus	Luke 16:19-31 video	This parable is a strong condemnation of those who deny justice to the poor 'at their gate'
6	The parable of the sheep and the goats	Matthew 25:31-45 video	In the parable of the sheep and the goats, Jesus equates acting justly for the poor, the weak and vulnerable with loving and serving God.
7	Jesus on the cross	John 19	When dying on the cross Jesus considered others, even in the midst of his own pain. He had concern for the thief; he asked God to forgive his killers and had concern for his mother.
8	The story of Jonah Lion Storyteller Bible – Jonah the Groaner p. 66	Jonah 1-2 video	God wanted the people of Nineveh to understand what they were doing wrong, rather than just punish them.

9	Jeremiah Lion Storyteller Bible – Down in the well p.70	Jeremiah 15:10	Prophets like Jeremiah stood up for the rights of the poor, despite how they were treated by the rest of society.
10	Amos	Amos 8:4-7	The prophet was furious with God's people of his day because they worshipped God but cheated the poor.