

# CHRISTIAN AID







## THEMED PROGRAMME

christian  
aid

### AIM

Learn about the work of Christian Aid with some interactive activities that touch on some of the big issues the organisation focuses on. Topics such as poverty, inequality, justice, fairness etc. A resource created in partnership with **Christian Aid**.

### ACTIVITIES

-  **Inequality: The World's Resources**
-  **Humanity: A Connected World**
-  **Equality: Equality Line**
-  **Justice**
-  **Fairness: Water Container Game**
-  **Time to Make a Difference**

# CHRISTIAN AID

## ➤ INTRODUCTION

Christian Aid are a partnership of Churches, organisations and people committed to ending poverty around the world. They work with communities to fight injustice, respond to humanitarian emergencies, campaign for change and support people to claim the services and rights they are entitled to.

The activities in this pack touch on some of the big issues that Christian Aid work on. For more information about their work and these issues, visit <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

## ? DID YOU KNOW?

- Christian Aid was founded in 1945 after World War 2, to help refugees.
- Christian Aid aims to expose poverty throughout the world and to help in practical ways to end it.
- Christian Aid works in 37 countries around the world.
- Christian Aid hold a fundraising week each May. This is the UK's longest running fundraising week, taking place for over 60 years.



## GET INVOLVED: SHAPING OUR WORLD INEQUALITY: THE WORLD'S RESOURCES

**The Issue:** The world is incredibly unfair. The rich are getting richer and the poor, poorer. Are we as a society doing enough to address this problem?

**The Activity:** Write these identities onto slips on paper and place them into sealed envelopes. Give each person taking part a random envelope but ask the group not to open them yet.

- You are in the 50% that lives below the breadline (half the group should receive this)
- You are in the 40% that struggle to get by (the next largest group should be this)
- You are in the 9% that live comfortably (small group – max three people)
- You are the highest earning 1% (one person to receive this)

Tell the group they represent the people of the world. They know nothing about themselves (nationality, wealth, gender, ethnicity etc). In this world, 50% of the people are in poverty and don't have enough money for education, a healthy life, or a basic diet. 40% are really struggling to get by, 9% are comfortable (good food, home etc) and 1% of the population control 50% of the wealth and resources. Give the group a large bag of sweets (or similar) and tell them they must allocate these resources between themselves. The decision on who gets what must be a group decision.

Once the resources have been allocated, the young people can open their envelopes and find out who they are in their nation. Reflect as a group on the decision that they made.

- What impact did it have on their person, now they know their character?
- Are they still happy with the decision they made? What could they have had instead?
- How does the decision made as a group look similar/different to the world around them?

In the world today, 50% of the population live in poverty. 1% of the world has 50% of the wealth.

- How does that make you feel as a group?
- Why might this be the case?



## GET LEARNING: ME AND MY WORLD

# HUMANITY: A CONNECTED WORLD

**The Issue:** To think about the communities we are part of – locally and globally – and to explore how we all impact each other.

**The Activity:** Stand in a circle. One person should hold one end of a ball of string and then throw / pass the rest of the string to someone else in the circle that they are connected to. Give the reason for the connection as the string is passed. That person should then hold onto a piece of the string and throw the ball to someone else they feel connected to. Encourage the group to think of a wide range of connections. Examples might be schools, hair colour, same town, football team, play the same online game and so on. How many different connections can the group come up with? Keep going, passing the string each time, until you have a complex web of string between the group.

- What does this web show us?
- If one person starts wiggling the string, who else can feel it?
- What examples can you think of where the actions of one person can impact another person around the world? (Climate change, Fairtrade, charity, health epidemics)
- With our actions being able to impact other people around the world, what can we do to cause positive ripples in a connected world? (Link in the work of Christian Aid)



## GET INVOLVED: SHAPING OUR WORLD

# EQUALITY: EQUALITY LINE

**The Issue:** How do we judge people, what makes us unequal and what can be done to improve it?

**The Activity:** Ask the group to stand in height order from the shortest to the tallest. How does the shortest / tallest person feel? Now give three of the shorter members of the group something to stand on to make them taller. Move up the line accordingly. How does this make them feel now?

How do we make judgements of people in our world? Prettier, more important, richer? What else? Sometimes the way we judge things can be valid, e.g. someone is taller than me or something is too heavy to carry or too large to fit. However, some of our judgements are based on a way of looking at the world that doesn't champion equality – where things like looks or wealth become reasons for some people to be treated differently to others. Sometimes people also have an advantage (where they've been born or what opportunities are given or taken away).

- Are some people more important than others?
- If God created us all equal, why aren't we now?
- Should we all be equal?
- What can be done to help increase the opportunities of poorer people around the world?

**Note for Leaders:** Be aware of the difference between equality and equity. We don't all have the same resources, but God's economy suggests we should provide for each other in community so that all have the same opportunity.



## GET INTO THE BIBLE: UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIAN VALUES JUSTICE

**What is justice?** Watch the video 'Justice' by the Bible Project (<https://youtu.be/A14THPoc4-4>). It explores what Justice is and what it means in Biblical terms.

**Justice and God:** Right at the very beginning of the Bible it says that we are made in the image of God (that makes us all pretty important!). Humans were made equal and therefore God intended for us to be treated as such too. But history has shown we find it difficult to treat each other equally, resulting in us now having an unequal and unjust world. What are Christians called to do about that?

**What does the Bible say?** As a group take a look at **Proverbs 31 v 8-9**, **Jeremiah 22 v 3** and **Deuteronomy 24:17-22**. Discuss each passage and the message behind each one. What are these verses telling us and encouraging us to do? What is the Christian response to injustice?

**What can we do?** Christians are challenged to act. To fight for other people's problems. To not turn the other way, but to actively ask 'what can I do to make this better?'

**'He has told you what is good. What does the Lord require of you? To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.'** Micah 6 v 8



## GET ACTIVE: PLAYING GAMES FAIRNESS: WATER CONTAINER GAME

**The Issue:** People around the world have different levels of resources. This impacts their way of life and the opportunities they have. Is this fair? What can be done about it?

**The Activity:** Create three teams and put them in front of a bucket of water each. Somewhere at the other end of the room (or outdoors) have an empty bucket each. Give the teams containers to transport the water from the full bucket to the empty one and two minutes to do it. Hand out each team's containers – these should be different sizes (one big, one small, one medium). The groups will no doubt complain but ignore their responses, start the game and see how they get on.

- How did each team get on?
- Was the game fair?
- What real life comparisons could we make between this game and situations around the world?
- How could we make this game, and the real life examples, fairer?



## GET INVOLVED: HELPING OTHERS TIME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Christian Aid's work to fight poverty, injustice, inequality and more, is important and sadly needed just as much today than it ever has been. What could you do to get involved and make a difference? Take a look at some of the options below and then decide as a group what you'd like to do.

**Fundraising:** Support the work of Christian Aid, raising essential funds to make a real difference. Money raised will help provide resources to some of the world's poorest people, enabling them to lift themselves out of poverty. What could you do to raise money? For fundraising ideas and to order a fundraising pack, visit <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/fundraising>

**Campaigning:** Use your voice to demand changes to the system that keep people in poverty. This might be with a petition, by contacting a decision maker or raising awareness etc. To get started with your campaigning and for more ideas, visit <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/campaigns-toolkit>