

Hands and Feet: Social Justice

Kids Church - Lesson 1

Date:

Lesson 1: How can I make a difference? - Poverty

Learning Objective/s:

Children will learn that:

1. Poverty exists all around the world
2. There are charities all around the world, including our local area, that help those in need
3. They can make a difference by praying for those who don't have enough

Equipment:

- Weekly overview board and lesson timetable board (*see series overview for more info*)
- *Ice breaker: x2 pieces of A4 paper for each child, pencils*
- *Song: Speaker, device and PowerPoint*
- *Lesson: Giant Bible verses, Map of the world, laptops/printed out website pages, worksheet, pens*
- *Craft: colouring sheets, felt tips/crayons*
- Parent cards

Parent Card:

At the end of the lesson, hand out the **parent cards** to the children so that they can continue reflecting on this week's lesson at home.

Welcome Time:

Before starting the lesson, sit the children down and ask each one about their week, not forgetting to share about yours too. This is a great chance to build relationship with each other and to teach the children important skills like communication and listening.

Ice Breaker: rich verses poor

Give the children a piece of paper. Ask them to draw a picture of someone who is rich. Then give them another piece of paper. Ask them to draw a picture of someone who is poor.

Learning Point Question: What's the difference between the two pictures you have drawn?

Say to the children, in our world there are people who have a lot and people who have little.

Ice Breaker: rich versus poor

Learning Point Question: What basic needs do all people need to live?

Listen to the children's answers and say, all people need food, clean water and shelter to survive. When people don't have these things we say they are living in poverty.

Today, we are going to find out about what God thinks about poverty and what we can do to make a difference.

Song

Pick a song your children regularly sing and dance to, or teach them a new song.

Lesson: Charity Scavenger Hunt

Show the children a map of the world. Help them get their bearings by pointing out the different countries. Then, ask them to point out where they think poverty exists in the world. Once they have shown you what they think, tell the children that this may surprise them, but poverty exists in every country in the world, even in the UK.

Ask the children what they think the Bible tells us about poverty. Listen to their thoughts before bringing out the giant Bible. Choose a few older children to help you read out Matthew 25:34-40.

Explain to the children that in these verses the king represents Jesus. **Ask them why the good people were confused.** Using the Giant Bible as a visual, say that the king is praising them for helping him, even though they hadn't. **Ask the children why the king was doing this.** Again, use the giant Bible as a visual and point to verse 40, explaining that every time they helped someone else it was like they were doing it for the king on his behalf.

Jesus wants us to help those in need - when we do this we are doing it for him. We are being his hands and feet on earth, doing what he did when he was walking on the earth, showing love and care to those who need it.

Tell the children that even though poverty is a massive issue in the world, there are things people can do to help - that's why there are charities all around the world that help people who don't have their basic needs met.

Lesson:

Prep: Come prepared with a list of local and international charities you would like the children to research

Tell the children they are going to research some different charities and they need to complete the worksheet as they do so. Split the children into pairs/groups (depending on how many laptops you have access to - if you have no access to laptops, then pre-print some website pages about the charities you would like the children to research).

After the children have finished, bring them back together and ask them to share what they have filled out on their worksheets.

Craft:

The children have a colouring page to complete - one for the the older children and one for the younger children. Whilst they are colouring, ask them the following questions about the charities they have just learnt about:

- Which charity were you the most interested in?
- What needs are these charities meeting? Can you think of any other needs?
- Was there anything that surprised you about what these charities do?
- How are these charities being the hands and feet of Jesus?
- Was there anything you read that you didn't understand?

Prayer:

Tell the children that one of the ways they can make a difference is through prayer.

Give the children a prayer journal each and ask them to write their name on the front. Tell them that this is their journal to use at home and will give them an opportunity to pray about the different issues they will be learning about over the next 4 weeks.

Now sit the children on the floor and ask if anyone can think of a simple prayer to pray for people around the world living in poverty. Listen to their thoughts and then lead the children in a prayer.

Next, ask the children if they have anything they want to pray about for the week ahead/or anything they want to say thank you to God for. Then lead the children in a prayer (before you start, ask if any children would like to pray too).

Parent Card

What I've learned in Kids Church today

Date:

Lesson 1: How can I make a difference? - Poverty

We're so glad your child has joined us today!

During our session today we have talked about poverty. We explained to the children that all people need food, clean water and shelter to survive and when people don't have these things we say they are living in poverty. We then explored some different charities and how they help people living in poverty. This was then followed by how the children can make a difference by praying for people in need.

Prayer Journal

Your child will be bringing home a prayer journal today. This week, please encourage your child to complete the introduction and week 1, reminding them about how they can make a difference to those in need by praying for them.

The memory verse we learned today is:

"Then the King will answer, 'I tell you the truth. Anything you did for any of my people here, you also did for me.'" Matthew 25:40

Talk together:

Over the next few weeks the children will be doing a social justice series entitled "Hands and Feet".

Today we looked at different charities and how they help people living in poverty.

Why not research a charity together as a family and then pray for the volunteers and for the people they help.

Pray together:

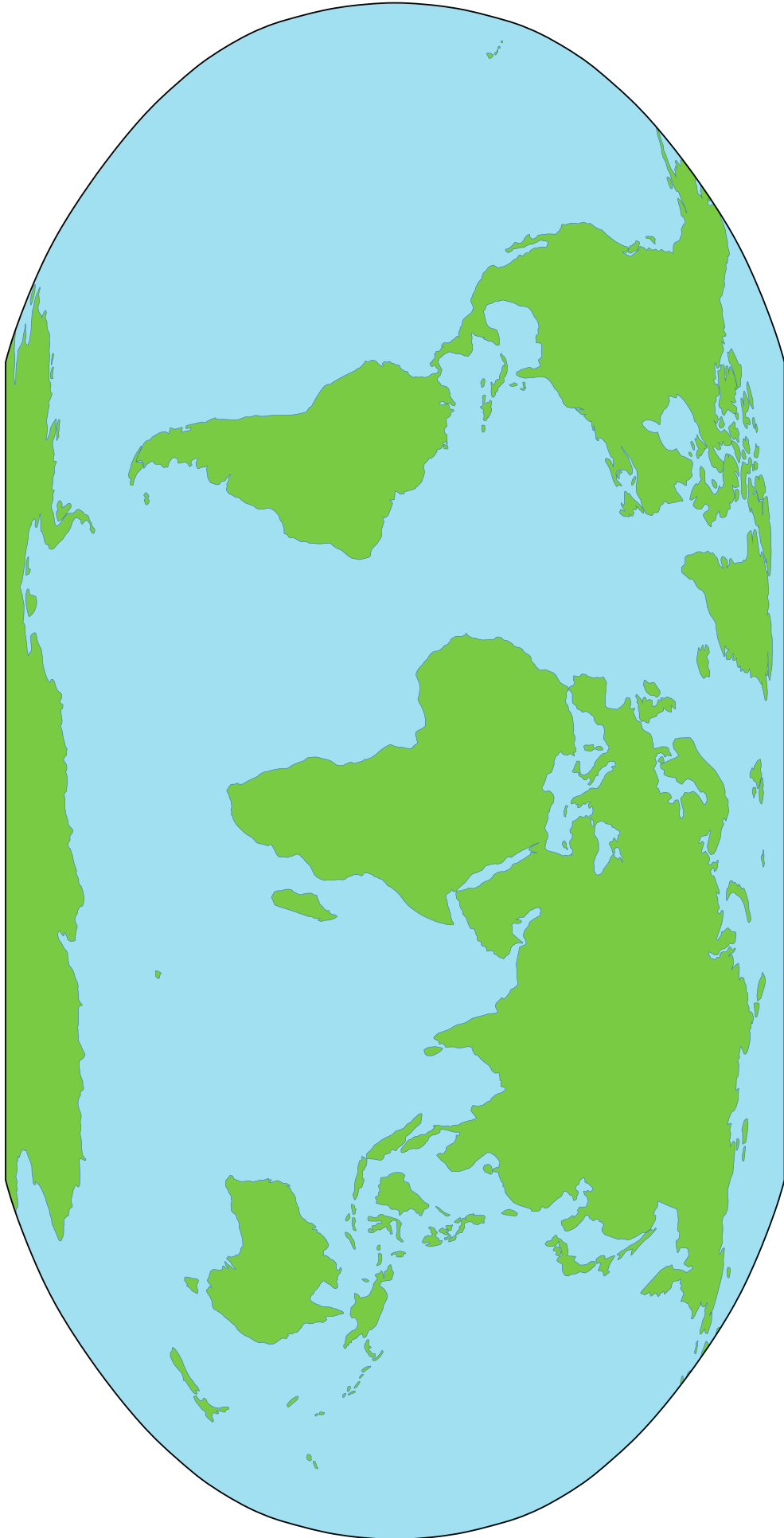
Jesus,
There are so many people around the world who are in need.

Thank you for the work of charities who help these people. I particularly thank you for the work of...

Remind me that I can make a BIG difference by praying. This week I pray that you would help...
Amen

See you next time!

Lesson: Map of the World



Matthew 25

34 “Then the King will say to the good people on his right, ‘Come. My Father has given you his blessing. Come and receive the kingdom God has prepared for you since the world was made. 35 I was hungry, and you gave me food. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was alone and

away from home, and you invited me into your house. ³⁶ I was without clothes, and you gave me something to wear. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'

³⁷ "Then the good people will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you food? When did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink?"

38 When did we see you alone and away from home and invite you into our house? When did we see you without clothes and give you something to wear? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and care for you?’

40 “Then the King will answer, ‘I tell you the truth. Anything you did for any of my people here, you also did for me.’

I am researching about a charity called...

This charity is... (circle the correct answer)

Local (near where I live)

International (around the world)

How does this charity help people living in poverty?

How can people help this charity?

Write down some facts that surprise you

Draw the logo of your charity

Anything you don't understand write here!



Anything you did for
any of my people here,
you also did for me.

Matthew 25:40



Be the hands and
feet of Jesus

Matthew 25:40

