

Hands and Feet: Social Justice

Kids Church - Lesson 4

Date:

Lesson 4: How can I make a difference? - Racism

Learning Objective/s:

Children will learn:

1. What racism is and that it's okay to be different
2. What the Bible says about racism
3. How they can make a difference

Equipment:

- Weekly overview board and lesson timetable board (*see series overview for more info*)
- *Ice breaker: Venn diagram, pens*
- *Song: Speaker, device and PowerPoint*
- *Lesson: 3 or 4 boxes wrapped in different wrapping with a love heart sweet inside*
- *Craft: prepared cupcakes, icing, sprinkles, list of charities*
- 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: Similarities and Differences

Tell the children they are going to be put into pairs (odds numbers can go in a three, or work with the leader). Give the children a Venn diagram sheet and ask them a series of questions to answer - if they have the same answer they write it in the middle where it says "us", if the person writing has a different answer they will put it in "Me" and their partner will put it in "You".

Ask the children the following questions:

1. What's your favourite colour?

Ice Breaker: Similarities and Differences

2. When is your birthday?
3. What's your favourite food?
4. What's your favourite subject?
5. Do you prefer rain or sunshine?
6. What do you like to watch on TV?
7. What's your favourite book?
8. Which do you prefer - Christmas or your birthday?
9. If you could go anywhere on holiday, where would you go?
10. Which do you prefer - school work or school holidays?

Once the children have written down all their answers, bring them back together and talk about what they have written, what similarities do they have and what differences.

Learning point question: Is it ok to be different?

God has made us all different. We might be born in the same place, or have the same likes and dislikes, but we all have different ways of living life, our families might celebrate things differently depending on where they were born, we might believe something different to our friends because they don't go to church, or they might have a different religion to us, people we meet might have a different skin colour because they've come from a different part of the world, or they might speak funny because of the accent they have.

God wants us to celebrate our differences but, unfortunately, there are some people in our world who aren't kind to people who are different. Ask the children if they know what this is called. Listen to their answers and then say, this is called racism.

Today, we're going to be looking at what the Bible says about racism and how we can celebrate our differences.

idea taken from British Red Cross: https://www.redcross.org.uk/-/media/documents-indexed/talking-to-children-about-race-and-racism.pdf?sc_lang=en&hash=3FC5695647D346716C08917CC12AB6EA

Song

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

Lesson: The Heart

Prep: wrap up 3 or 4 different boxes in different wrapping (using different colours and textures if possible). Before wrapping each box place inside a love heart sweet.

Show the children the boxes and ask them to tell you what the difference is between them. Listen to the children's answers.

Then ask them to put the boxes in order of which they think is the best, to which they think is the worst. Listen to their answers, move the boxes in the order they say, and ask them why they think this.

Now say to the children, if I changed these boxes for people there would be lots of differences between them, we found this to be true during the ice breaker. Just by looking we can see that people have different skin colours, some are tall, some are short, etc... it's ok to be different and it's good to celebrate these differences, but there are some people who would put people in order of who is better and who is not, like we did with the boxes, and they do this because of what they see on the outside - this is what racism is - when people judge the outside.

Now ask for some volunteers to open the boxes. Once they have opened the boxes and shown the other children the love heart that is inside each one, ask the children if they can decide how God sees people. Listen to their answers and then **bring out the giant Bible and read 1 Samuel 16:7 together:** *'God does not see the same way people see. People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart.'*

Say to the children, we all look different, but God doesn't see the differences, he sees our hearts. **Ask the children what they think this means,** then say, God doesn't love us because of what we look like on the outside, he loves us because of who we are on the inside, he accepts us no matter what, he includes us in his plans, he wants us even when others don't. No one is better than the other. We are all the same in his eyes.

And this is how God wants us to treat others. To look past what we see on the outside and to see who they are on the inside - which is someone loved by God.

Share out the love heart sweets amongst the children and **ask them what they could do to show love to everyone and help stop racism in the places where they live.** Listen to their answers and encourage the children to lead by example, showing love to everyone even if they look different, and speaking out if their friends are being unkind to someone because of the way they look or speak.

Craft: Icing Cakes

Tell the children that today they are going to ice some cakes to sell after church. The money they make will then be given to a charity that they have looked at over the last few weeks. Tell the children that this is a great way to make a difference to people who are in need.

Read through the list of charities we have looked at, reminding the children of what each charity did if they can't remember. Ask the children to pick their favourite charity and take a vote. The one with the highest amount of votes is the one they will donate their cake sale money to.

Now ice the prepared cakes with the children.

Prayer:

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

Remind the children to complete their prayer journals this week (also give out prayer journals to any children who do not have one). And tell them they need to bring them to church next week for kidz worship.

Now sit the children on the floor and ask if anyone can think of a simple prayer to pray for those who might have been impacted by racism. 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 4: How can I make a difference? - Racism

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

During our session today we have talked about racism. God wants us to celebrate our differences but, unfortunately, there are some people in our world who aren't kind to people who are different. The children learnt that God doesn't love us because of what we look like on the outside, he loves us because of who we are on the inside - and this is how God wants us to treat others.

Prayer Journal

This week, please encourage your child to complete week 4, the final week, reminding them about how they can make a difference by praying for those who have been impacted by racism.

The memory verse we learned today is:

'God does not see the same way people see. People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart.' 1 Samuel 16:7

Talk together:

This is the last session on our social justice series entitled "Hands and Feet".

Today we talked about how people are different but how we are all loved by God. Talk with your families about how you could show God's love to the people you meet and how you can make sure everyone is loved no matter what they look like.

Pray together:

Jesus,

You have created everyone different, and that's a good thing, help me to celebrate this today!

Thank you that you look at our hearts and love us all the same - help me to do this too.

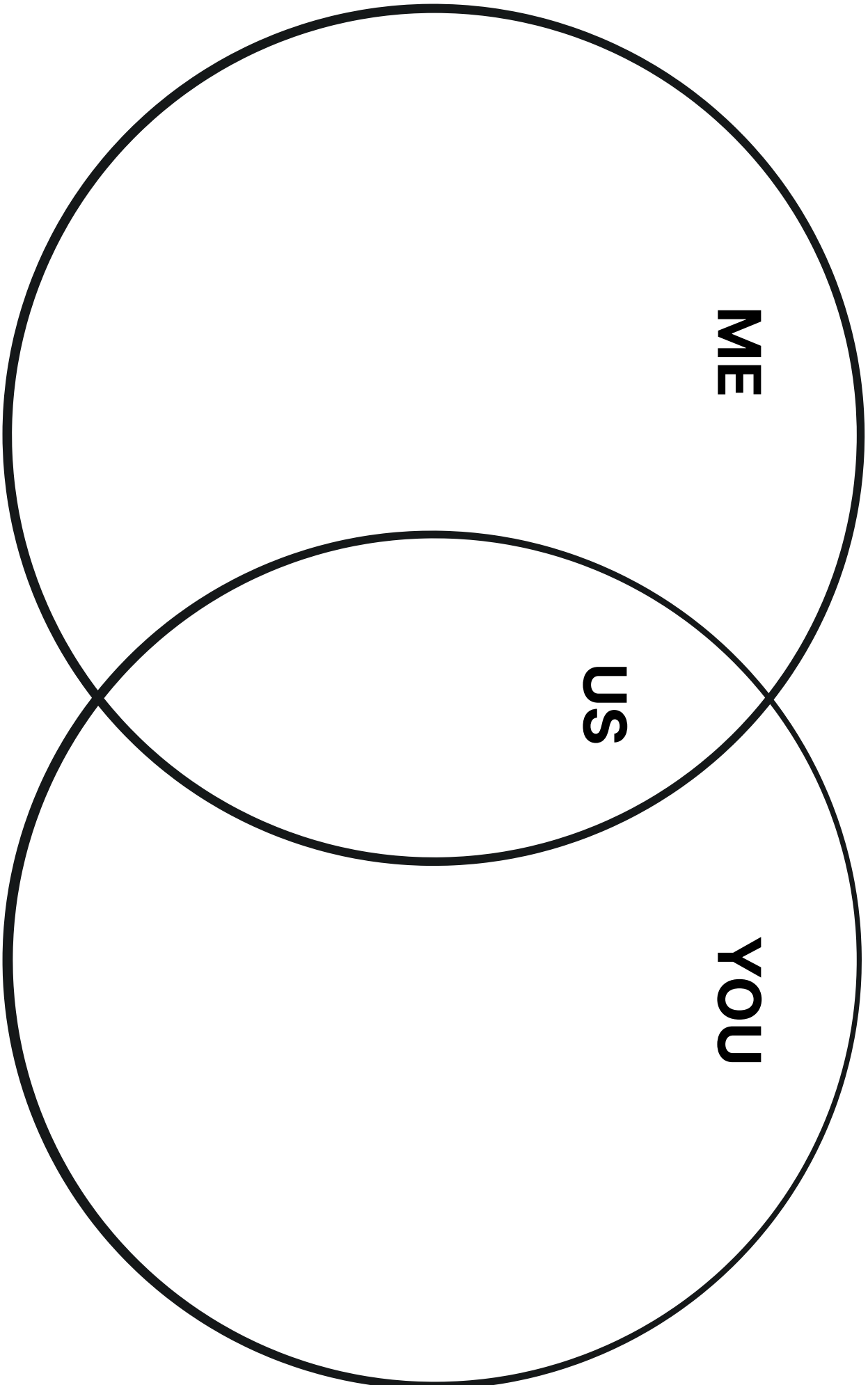
Amen

See you next time!

1 Samuel 2

7 God does not see the same way people see. People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart.

Ice Breaker: Venn diagram



During this series
we have looked at the
following charities

Poverty

Ryedale Community Foodbank
Zarach: The Children's Bed Charity
Restore (*temporary housing for
homeless in York*)
Compassion
Christian Aid
Mary's Meals

Refugees

Salvation Army
ICN (International Care Network)

Climate Change

A Roche UK