

TODDLER CHURCH SESSION



PREPARATION

- Service sheet outline or slide presentation with songs, prayers etc.
- Bible story book or animated story clip of the story of creation
- Jelly babies to share as part of story teaching or prayer activity
- Planning for what fundraising activity your group will engage in
- Craft materials for activity of your choice
- Parachute
- A variety of musical instruments

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME (FOR LEADER)

The promise of a better life is a tempting offer. For those living in poverty, in even the most beautiful parts of the world, the dream of providing for your family becomes a constant and agonising ache.

In the Philippines – a sun-kissed paradise of more than 7,000 tropical islands – one in five people lives in poverty and the luscious setting shrouds an ugliness which lies beneath the surface.

Preying on the vulnerable, traffickers deceive and exploit, enticing people with the promise of dreams fulfilled.

Desperate to support those they love, people believe the lies and accept opportunities to journey away from home unaware of the reality which awaits them.

The promises remain unseen and the dreams remain unrealised.

Traffickers see people merely as commodities, ignoring the truth of who they are – children of God, full of promise and dearly loved by the One who created them.

The Salvation Army is raising awareness of the reality of trafficking, mobilising communities to protect themselves, supporting survivors and helping to improve opportunities at home so the drive to leave is lessened.

Through prevention, protection and partnership, we are supporting people to reclaim the promise that exists within them and rebuild their lives.



WELCOME SONG



Tune: 'Do you know the muffin man'

Welcome all to church today, to church today, to church today,
Welcome all to church today – we're all God's family!

BIBLE READING / THOUGHT

Genesis 1 (with special reference to verses 26-31)

Tell the story of creation, focusing briefly on what God made each day but making special emphasis on how on day six he made humankind 'in his own image'. You can do this using a Toddler Bible, Bible story book or by showing an animated version. This could also be done using Godly Play.

Talk with the families about how, even though God created the entire world, it is only people who are made in God's likeness and that all of us are part of his family. Emphasise how much each person is loved by God and that in the Bible he calls us his children.

'See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!' (1 John 3:1a)

Tell them that The Salvation Army is working all around the world to help people everywhere understand how we are all part of God's family and that he loves us all as his children. We can help The Salvation Army to do this by raising some money so that they can help make people's lives better, removing them from poverty and the danger of being vulnerable to modern slavery.

You could share some jelly babies as a reminder that we are all children of God.



FUNDRAISING IDEAS

- Coin trail – Ask families to bring in spare change, and lay the coins out around a map of the world to show God loves the whole world.
- Lunch – Host a simple soup and roll lunch and ask families to donate the money they would usually spend on a meal.
- Collect empty baby food jars and distribute to families asking them to fill them with coins for a month. You could fill them with jelly babies first and talk about how we are raising money to help people in other countries because we are all children of God.
- Sponsored activity, eg, Toddle or Nursery Rhyme Sing.
- Coffee morning with a cake stall and/or bring and buy sale.



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THEME SONG



Tune: 'Old Macdonald had a farm'

For a few verses, get the children to suggest animals as in the traditional farm version, and then introduce the final verse about people:

God created all the world, I know, I know, I know.
And on that world he made some... (dogs / sheep / cows etc.)
With a bark, bark here and a bark, bark there etc.
God created all the world, I know, I know, I know.

God created all the world, I know, I know, I know.
And on that world he made some people, I know, I know, I know.
With boys and girls here, and boys and girls there, and lots of people everywhere!
God created all the world, I know, I know, I know.

PRAYER

Thank you, God, for creating our beautiful world.
Thank you, God, for making me special and for loving me.
Thank you, God, that The Salvation Army is working all around the world to help people everywhere understand how we are all part of your family and that you love us all as your children.
Amen.

INTERACTIVE PRAYER

Have some jelly babies to share as you pray.

Dear God,
As we share these jelly babies, we are reminded how all people around the world are your children and that you love us all very much.
Please help us always to remember how special we are to you and to share what we can with people who are in need because we are all part of your family.
Amen.



ACTIVITY/GAMES



He's got the whole world in his hands picture

Help the children to draw or print their hands and cut out.

Use a paper plate to create an image of the earth with green, blue and brown fingerprints.

Attach the hands to the bottom and add the words 'He's got the whole world in his hands' by adding a printed sticky label or writing on them.

Biscuit Faces

Using a round, plain biscuit, get the children to decorate it with icing and sweets to create their face. Save them to eat at snack time.

Parachute Game

Get the adults and children to hold on to the edge of the parachute and practise lifting it up and down. Shout out some simple descriptions for children to run under – eg, boys, girls, hair colour, eye colour, age etc. Finish with saying that God's got all the children of the world in his hands and let them all run under.

For other ideas see: <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/FMYorkshire/created-and-loved-by-god/>

INSTRUMENT SONGS

Tune: 'Polly put the kettle on'

We are playing instruments, instruments, instruments,
We are playing instruments as we praise the Lord!

We are playing up and down, up and down, up and
down,
We are playing up and down as we praise the Lord!

We are playing quietly, quietly, quietly,
We are playing quietly as we praise the Lord!

We are playing very loud, very loud, very loud,
We are playing very loud as we praise the Lord!

Tune: 'Frère Jacques'

We are playing, we are playing,
What a noise! What a noise!
Having so much fun, Having so much fun
Girls and boys, what a noise!

ADDITIONAL SONGS

- 'He's got the whole world in his hands'
- 'The Lion's Roar' (Sarah Pickering, Great Big God for Preschoolers):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dzk42FtUR_g

Tune: 'The wheels on the bus'

Listen to the drums go bang, bang, bang...
Praising God!

Listen to the bells go ting, ting, ting...

Listen to the shakers go shake, shake, shake...

Listen to us all make lots of noise...

CLOSING PRAYER

God made the world for us to share.
God made the world so we must care.
God made and loves both you and me
For we're all part of his family.
Amen.

This session was created by Rachel Gotobed.