

AT HOME WITH...



GENDER JUSTICE

Before leading this session, leaders are encouraged to read the Gender-Based Violence Information Sheet which provides some background information on the issue of gender-based violence.

This session introduces the themes of equality and inequality, so you may need to be sensitive to the fact that some children may not be aware that some people are not treated as equal because of their gender. During the session, be sure to explain that everyone is equal and that we can still celebrate our uniqueness and differences.

KEY MESSAGES

- In some communities women are defined by their gender or by the abuse they have experienced as a result of this.
- Through support and training, women are becoming empowered to overcome their experiences and challenge the way they are treated and defined.
- We were all created by God and equally loved by him. We are each unique yet made in his image.

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME

Watch the *Redefined* overview video, created as part of the 2017 Helping-Hand campaign.

Explain that some women are treated as inferior because of their gender. However, this is not what God wants. In this session we will learn about equality, our individuality and how we are all equally loved by God.

ACTIVITY 1: Unique People Bunting

Bible References: Psalm 119, Genesis 3:28, 1 Corinthians 11:11-12

Every one of us, male and female, is unique but we are also all made in the image of God. Sometimes the world wants us to think less of ourselves and try to label us. But we are not what the world thinks we are – we are more than this. We are God's creation – his design.

Think about what makes you unique. Is it your smile, your sense of humour, your eyes, your character?



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ACTIVITY 2: Unique People Bunting (continued)

Take one of the cut-out people and draw yourself as God sees you.

Once you have decorated the body as yourself, join it with a paper fastener to another cut-out person until you have a unique bunting to display.

Talk about: Yourself! Describe yourself to the rest of the group, highlighting your similarities to other people as well as the things that make you unique (the things that make you YOU!). Thank God for making you the way you are.

Note: The outline provided for the cut-out is a gender-neutral body to allow people to customise it as they wish without typical stereotypes enforced.

You will need: Cardboard cut-out people shapes, items to decorate with (crayons, felt-tip pens, felt, beads, pipe cleaners, fabric etc), paper fasteners.

ACTIVITY 3: Photo Challenge Activity

Show the photographs to the group (use at least eight). Write a word on the label to describe the person.

Once all the photos are labelled, ask the group: Can we really define people in one word?

Explain that this is impossible because human beings are complex creatures. We are shaped by the place we are born, situations we encounter and the people we meet. We are also shaped by our relationship with God.

Look at the person in each photograph again and use your imagination to redefine each person.

Use more labels to place on each photo to create a more detailed description of the person.



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ACTIVITY 3: Photo Challenge Activity (continued)

Talk about: For many women around the world, the way they are treated and defined is determined by their gender. This limits their potential. Sometimes when we label people it changes the way we react and engage with them and our judgments can limit our relationships.

We need to keep our own judgments in check, but also we need to stand up for others who are treated unfairly because of other people's perceptions. The Salvation Army is working alongside women to empower them and equip them to stand up and challenge the way they are defined.

We can also help people by standing up for them and challenging unfair treatment that's based on whether they are male or female.

'There is no longer... male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus' (Galatians 3:28 NLT).

You will need: Photographs (take your own of people from the church and source others online of police officers, teachers etc), labels, pens.

ACTIVITY 4: Identity Card

How would you describe yourself? What special features do you have? What interests do you have or hobbies do you like? Where do you live?

Create your own ID card. Draw a picture of yourself in a small square and add your fingerprint as well as special features about yourself, interesting facts and hobbies etc.

Talk about: Think about the things that define you. What would it feel like if you were only defined by your gender? How would that make you feel? Do you think this would give a full picture of who you are and the potential you have? Do you think this is fair or just? What would you do about it?



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CELEBRATION

Teaching

You may like to watch a cartoon of the creation story which reminds us that God created all things (for example: www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLHB_hNk42g)

‘So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them’ (Genesis 1:27 NLT).

This verse tells us of the relationship human beings have with God. He is our creator. As part of God’s creation we exhibit God’s design, power and imagination. He created human beings in his image, both male and female.

Bible commentator Matthew Henry said of Eve:

‘The woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him...’

Yet currently in our world, women are frequently treated differently from men. They are defined by their gender, which affects the way they are treated and limits their choices and opportunities. Women are defined and treated differently for no other reason than the fact that they are women.

If we truly believe that God created man and women equally, then this imbalance cannot be right. As Christians who want to live as God wants us to, we need to be ready to stand up, speak up and restore God’s vision of equality.

Prayer time

Watch the Redefined reflection video.

Each one of us is wonderfully made by God’s own hand. Each one of us is a unique, amazing and marvellous creation. That’s how God sees us – he knows and loves each one of us.

We need to remind ourselves of the way God sees us so that we are not be defined by the world.



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Prayer time (continued)

The printed outline of the hand represents God's hands. Invite everyone to write their names on the hand to signify that God created us and continues to care for us.

He knows our worth, he knows our value and cherishes us. God loves us all equally, and no one is considered more important than anyone else. In God's Kingdom there is a place for everyone.

You will need: Printed outline of a hand, pens.

SUGGESTED SONGS

SoF 1775 'Indescribable'

SoF 208 'If I were a butterfly'

'Lovely Jubbly' (Doug Horley)



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