

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



JUSTICE: INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1 John 3:16-18

Please read the 'Autumn Overview' leader's notes for more info.

The Salvation Army International Development UK works alongside communities around the world - to support and empower them to defeat poverty and injustice. This session aims for the children to learn about this work and to provide an opportunity for them to respond and pray about the inequalities which exist.

Each child will need:

- Colouring pens/pencils and paper

Start It

Send the children on a scavenger hunt around the home to collect objects which represent the following things:

- Water (a bottle or glass of water)
- Food (a snack or a plant)
- Money (piggy bank, coins or a card)
- Shelter (material or building blocks)

Ask: What links these things together?

- **Say:** These things are essential for living and should be a basic right for all people.
- **Say:** These items also represent the areas where The Salvation Army's International Development Team work in. The team works with developing communities around the world; to support and empower them to build a better life and future. They help people understand and fight injustice, to take action, and bring about equality in the world.
- **Say:** The Salvation Army's International Development Team focus on six areas for their work: clean water, food security, income generation, international emergency response (shelters), and two other areas, gender justice and anti-trafficking - which was explored last week.

Sing It

Consider how you can bring about change with Jesus' help, while you sing along to this song.

'Make a Difference' by Jane Alayra

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2eQlabUY68>

Tell It

Share these verses from 1 John 3:16-18 (ICB).

'This is how we know what real love is: Jesus gave his life for us. So we should give our lives for our brothers. Suppose a believer is rich enough to have all that he needs. He sees

his brother in Christ who is poor and does not have what he needs. What if the believer does not help the poor brother? Then the believer does not have God's love in his heart. My children, our love should not be only words and talk. Our love must be true love. And we should show that love by what we do.'

Ask: I wonder what 'we should give our lives for our brothers' means?

I wonder what 'true love' is?

I wonder how we show 'love by what we do'?

🗨️ **Say:** There are many people around the world who show God's love by what they do. Here are some stories of work that The Salvation Army International Development have been involved with from around the world. We are going to go on a journey to see where they have been.

Screen share Google Earth (or you could use a globe or large map). For each story, show that country and perhaps share some images of that place.

Depending on time you may choose to focus on just one of the stories below.

Clean Water

🗨️ **Say:** A lack of safe, clean water is one of the main problems in the world which causes people to die. The Salvation Army really wants to change that.

🗨️ **Say:** For many people access to clean water is difficult and this leads to lots of health problems with poor sanitation. Teams from The Salvation Army have been working with communities in the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** to improve how they get drinking water and to protect it, so the water stays clean and safe.

🗨️ **Say:** The project supported communities by constructing concrete protection around their natural water sources, and provided education and training on hygiene. The local communities were actively involved in the project by gathering sand, stones and other materials to build the protection around their spring They received training so that the communities can be self-sustaining for years to come.

Ask: How far do you have to go to get clean water? (You could have a race to see who could bring back their bottle filled with water!)

🗨️ **Say:** In many places around the world, getting access to clean water is a big challenge, with people often having to walk great distances in difficult terrain and weather. Some people walk for three hours every day to get access to clean water.

Look at a local map to where you are and find out where you could end up if you walked for three hours.

Ask: How would you feel if you had to do this every day? How do you feel that people still have to do this?

Food Security

🗨️ **Say:** Many of us will have celebrated or learned about Harvest.

Ask: Can you remember what this is?

🗨️ **Say:** In some parts of the world it is very difficult to grow food due to inconsistent rainfall and drought. For some people who live in these countries, such as **Zimbabwe**, The Salvation Army has been working with local organisations and communities to help train farmers, to teach methods that will help crops grow in these difficult conditions. An important part of the work is for the training to be shared with others in the community.

Ask: Why do you think this is?

🗨️ **Say:** During this pandemic, there were times when people struggled to get what they wanted in the shops.

Ask: Can you remember any of the things that people found it hard to find? Why do you think this was? How do you think we can help to ensure there is enough to go around?

Emergency Response: Bringing Light to Refugees in Bangladesh

🗨️ **Say:** When someone has to leave their home due to war, persecution, or natural disaster,

they are called a refugee. Sadly, this happens in many different places around the world.

- **Say:** One example is the Rohingya people who had to flee violence in Myanmar. More than 900,000 Rohingya refugees moved into crowded camps near a city called Cox's Bazar in **Bangladesh**.

Ask: Can you explain how big 900,000 is?

- **Say:** This large number created what is called a humanitarian need, as many people needed help with access to food, water and shelter. In response The Salvation Army provided much-needed power and light to residents of the camps. 2,800 solar panels with LED lights and accessories were given to families to help improve safety and security in the camps. As a result of this project, there is increased safety and protection in the camps and daily activities such as cooking, eating, and prayer are much easier and more dignified.

Ask: How do you think you would feel if your home and everything you owned was destroyed or you had to leave everything behind? (Be sensitive in case someone in your group has already experienced this.)

Encourage the children to think of different words to describe their feelings.

Ask: How did lights make such a change to their lives? How would this make them feel?

Action It

Ask the children to consider this scenario.

There is an emergency in **Pakistan!** Floods have destroyed thousands of homes. The Salvation Army has set up a temporary emergency shelter. Draw a picture to show what you think this shelter would look like. What things would there need to be inside it?

Think about your own experience of the things you need to live. Should it be different for others?

Ask children to share their ideas and talk about practical ways to help.

Pray It

Ask the children to gather together the objects they collected in the scavenger hunt at the beginning of the session. Recap with the children what each object represented: water, food, money and shelter.

- **Say:** Sometimes when we pray it can be difficult to know what or how to pray. There are some situations in the world which can seem hard for us to know how to make a difference.

Share the verses from Romans 8:26-27 (ICB).

'Also, the Spirit helps us. We are very weak, but the Spirit helps us with our weakness. We do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself speaks to God for us, even begs God for us. The Spirit speaks to God with deep feelings that words cannot explain. God can see what is in people's hearts. And he knows what is in the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit speaks to God for his people in the way that God wants.'

- **Say:** God understands sometimes we may struggle to know what to say but he has given us the Holy Spirit to speak for us.
- **Say:** Hold the objects and think about the stories we have heard or the issues which have been raised. Perhaps there was one which particularly stood out for you. Perhaps there is a place you had already heard about which you want to pray for.

Our spoken words are not always necessary when praying. God knows what is in our hearts.

Pray a blessing over the lives of the young people.

This week we have provided Explore It (Together) only. There are lots of ideas given by The Salvation Army's International Development team for exploring these themes further.