

JUSTICE AND PEACE: FAITH INTO ACTION

AN INTRODUCTION TO JUSTICE AND PEACE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

A series of sheets on J&P issues for young people to help discover ways of putting their faith into action using discussion, games, film clips and action ideas and rooted in scripture and Catholic Social Teaching

BUILDING A KINGDOM OF LOVE AND JUSTICE AND PEACE

Jesus gave us two great commandments which he said were the most important of all.

He asked us:

- to love God above anyone or anything else
- to love our neighbour as we love ourselves

We know from the Gospel stories that Jesus had a special love for the poor and downtrodden; the weak and the unloved; for outcasts and for those who are forced to live on the margins of society.

Jesus asks us to love everyone but especially those who suffer injustice in any way. By doing this we can play our part in building the Kingdom of God; a kingdom, not of worldly riches and power, but one of love and justice and peace.

FAITH INTO ACTION

We all share a responsibility to care for God's people and for the beautiful world he has made

By putting your faith into action you can:

- Develop a greater awareness of global issues
- Understand how our actions directly impact others, near and far, and how they impact our planet too
- Foster good relationships with each other and with the world around us
- Live the message of the Gospels and Catholic Social Teaching to help build a fairer world that will enable everyone to live life to the full

WHAT NEXT?

- Use the information sheets to explore J&P topics in more depth
- Discuss how you can take your involvement further - maybe forming a Youth Justice and Peace group or a Youth SVP group to focus on issues that concern you

DISCOVER MORE

- More information and resources are available from Anne O'Connor at anneoc980@hotmail.com

Justice and Peace is a call to

- challenge injustice and work for the good of all
- serve those in need
- build peace and reconciliation
- respect and care for all creation

HOPES AND DREAMS

- What issues concern you?
- How can you help build a better world?

USEFUL WEBSITES

Shrewsbury Diocese Justice & Peace

www.jpshrewsbury.wordpress.com/jp-youth/

CAFOD www.cafod.org.uk

Progressio www.progressio.org.uk

Pax Christi www.paxchristi.org.uk

The Forgiveness Project

www.theforgivenessproject.com/stories/

Church Action on Poverty

www.church-poverty.org.uk

Housing Justice www.housingjustice.org.uk

Child poverty Action Group

www.cpag.org.uk

The Fairtrade Foundation

www.fairtrade.org.uk

Traidcraft www.traidcraft.co.uk

Greenpeace www.greenpeace.org.uk

Friends of the Earth www.foe.co.uk

Christian Ecology Link

www.greenchristian.org.uk

Columbans www.columbans.co.uk

Catholic Association for Racial Justice

www.carj.org.uk

Jesuit Refugee Service www.jrsuk.net

Campaign Against Arms Trade

www.caat.org.uk

Independent Catholic News

www.indcatholicnews.com

JUSTICE AND PEACE: PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

Scripture

*Christ's peace must reign in your hearts,
since as members of the one body you have been called to that peace*

Colossians 3:15



REQUIREMENTS

Laptop to show the film
Items for the games
Information sheet

Catholic Social Teaching

*In accepting suffering in all his life and ministry
Jesus refused to defend himself with force or violence*

The Challenge of Peace par. 49

FILM

Imagine Peace: A Video for World Peace Day

6 mins 48

Ordinary people share their hopes and dreams for peace in the world inspired by John Lennon's song Imagine

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQjHumysMvE>

DISCUSS

- Did the film inspire you?
- What issues concern you most?

TRUST GAME

- In advance, using masking tape, mark out a pathway that twists and turns on the floor
- Get into pairs, facing each other
- One of the pair is then blindfolded
- In silence, with just the tips of index fingers touching, the seeing person leads their partner around the room, following the marked path
- The pair then swap roles

DISCUSS

- How did it feel to put your trust in someone you could not see? Were you scared?
- Did you need to trust your partner absolutely?

MAKE A PEACE GARDEN

- Make a peace garden at school or at church
- Pax Christi have a useful 4-page information sheet to get you started
- Go to <http://www.paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Create-a-Peace-Garden.pdf>

A PATH TO PEACE

- Cut out paper footprints
- Write messages of peace on them
- Place the footprints on the ground to form a path to peace
- Display in your peace garden
- Use the footprints as a prayer aid

DISCOVER MORE

- **Pax Christi** is an international peacemaking movement that promotes a culture of peace, non-violence and reconciliation
- Contact Matt Jeziorski, Pax Christi's Schools and Youth Outreach Worker, at education@paxchristi.org.uk for more info
- Download ***Elements of Peace***
<http://paxchristi.org.uk/?s=Elements+of+peace>

WALKING IN ANOTHER'S SHOES

- Discover some truly inspiring stories of peace, reconciliation and healing in which victims of violence have been able to meet with and forgive the perpetrator/s of the crime from **The Forgiveness Project** www.theforgivenessproject.com

JUSTICE AND PEACE: POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS

Scripture

If one of the brothers or sisters is in need of clothes and lacks food and you say to them "I wish you well; keep warm and eat plenty," without giving them these bare necessities of life, what good is that?

James 2: 15-16



REQUIREMENTS

Laptop to show the film
Information sheet

FILM

The Wrong Trainers: Samara's story

2 mins 38

Part of a series of animated films examining Child Poverty in the UK, telling true-life stories and narrated by children.

To see more films in this series go to *The Wrong Trainers* on youtube

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKZD4j77Fe&feature=related>

DISCUSS

- Discuss the issues raised in the film
- Is it fair that Samara's family have to struggle to make ends meet?
- What could be done to improve their situation?

SHOE SWOP

- Invite everyone to take off one of their shoes
- Gather all the shoes together in the middle of the room
- Ask everyone to take turns picking out someone else's shoe
- Invite everyone to put on the 'new' shoe and to walk around for a short while

DISCUSS

- Are you comfortable walking in someone else's shoes?
- Next time you buy new shoes spare a thought for Samara and others like her who struggle

Catholic Social Teaching

Our goal must be, for every man and woman, a life set free from all oppression.

Populorum Progressio no. 47

DID YOU KNOW?

- At 2.6 million The UK has one of the highest rates of child poverty in Europe
- One in 3 children in the UK lives in poverty
- Poor children are more likely to have health problems from birth, and to develop disabilities and special educational needs
- One in 7 children in the UK lives in bad housing
- The number of households in temporary accommodation has increased by nearly 120% since 1996
- The minimum wage does not keep up with inflation
- Half of all children living in poverty are in households where someone is actually in paid work
- Benefits have not risen in line with inflation and unemployment is currently rising

DISCOVER MORE

- Go to **Church Action on Poverty** www.church-poverty.org.uk for their latest campaign news
- Look at **Housing Justice** www.housingjustice.org.uk
- Look at **The Child Poverty Action Group's** campaign to end child poverty in the UK www.cpag.org.uk

JUSTICE AND PEACE: FAIR TRADE

Scripture

*Do not take advantage of anyone or rob him.
Do not hold back the wages of someone you have hired,
not even for one night.*

Leviticus 19:15



Catholic Social Teaching

*It is not wrong to want to live better;
what is wrong is a style of life which is presumed to be better
when it is directed towards 'having' rather than 'being'.*

Centesimus Annus no. 36

REQUIREMENTS

Laptop to show the film
Equipment for the game
Information sheet

FILM

A Fair Story 1 min 31

Showing how fair trade connects people around the world

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h_bxTe5R9Hc

DID YOU KNOW?

- Richer countries have better resources and access to technology/advanced communication systems which give them a massive advantage over poorer countries
- Many existing trade rules benefit richer countries but they are disadvantageous to developing or poorer economies.
- Downturns in the world market inevitably hit the poorest hardest

TOWER BUILDING GAME

- Divide into two unequal teams
- Give the larger team sticky tape, scissors & newspapers
- Give the smaller team a few sheets of tissue paper
- Ask the teams to build a tower in 5 minutes
- Halfway through change the rules - announce that the tissue paper team must wear woolly gloves from now on

*Adapted from a **Traidcraft** game*

DISCOVER MORE

- Fair trade seeks to transform the lives of poor producers in the developing world
- It enables them to use their talents to build good livelihoods for themselves, their families and their communities
- It challenges unfair trade rules that favour the rich at the expense of the poor
- Producers benefit from better prices for their goods; access to new markets; decent working conditions; regular orders; development of skills and advance payments
- Find out how to become a Fair Trade School from **Traidcraft** www.traidcraft.co.uk
- Look too at **The Fairtrade Foundation** www.fairtrade.org.uk for more info and resources

DISCUSS

- Why was the game unfair?
- Would sharing resources have made a difference?
- Was it fair to change the rules with no warning?
- How can small producers compete with multi-nationals?

ACT

- See how many items bearing the fairtrade mark (see above top right) you can find when you next go shopping

JUSTICE AND PEACE: GREEN ISSUES

Scripture

To the Lord belongs the earth and all it contains, the world and all who live there.

Psalm 24 (23): 1

Catholic Social Teaching

*The Church has a responsibility towards creation
... she must defend not only earth, water and air as gifts of creation
that belong to everyone.*

She must above all protect mankind from self-destruction.

Caritas in Veritate (Charity in truth), 51



REQUIREMENTS

Laptop to show the film
Items for the game and for making the posters
Information sheet

FILM

Climate Change 2 mins

An overview of the effects of climate change

Download the film from youtube
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzjOcOcQ90U>

DISCUSS

- Think of ways to save energy
- Design a poster featuring a 10-point energy saving plan

ACT

- Hold a recycled Fashion Show using items of clothing that have been donated or, better still, design and make clothes using bin bags, bottle tops, shiny paper, etc!
- Have a prize for the most original design
- You could charge for admission and donate the money raised to Greenpeace

SLICING THE MELON GAME

- Place a melon on a chopping board
- Ask for 2 volunteers to take turns slicing the melon with a knife
- The leader cuts a large slice to equal wealthy countries' share of resources
- Then the 2 volunteers take turns to slice up the melon

(The melon represents the earth; the holes caused by slicing the melon represent the holes in the ozone layer)

- Now comes the hard part – see if the 2 volunteers can put the melon back together again!
- It's impossible to put the melon back together – a graphic illustration of the irreversible damage we are doing to our planet
- How can further damage be minimized?

DID YOU KNOW?

- The richer countries in the world take the largest slice of resources and wealth, leaving very little for the poorer ones

DISCOVER MORE

- To find out more go to **Greenpeace** www.greenpeace.org.uk or **Friends of the Earth** www.foe.co.uk
- For fun activities go to <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/multimedia/multimedia-archive/fungames>
- **The Columbans** have produced a number of resources on Green issues. Look at www.columbans.co.uk/resources/dvd-video/stations-of-the-rainforests for a moving presentation focusing on the destruction of the rainforest and climate change

JUSTICE AND PEACE: WELCOMING THE STRANGER

Scripture

How good, how delightful it is to live as brothers and sisters all together!

Psalm 133:1

REQUIREMENTS

Laptop to show the film
Items for the game
Information sheet

FILM

Asylum Seekers 3 mins 38

A Christian response to the plight of asylum seekers

Download from

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VR7WR2ehMfA&feature=fvsv>

TRUE STORY

"I met a young man in Milton Keynes. His shoulder was all mis-shapen and he explained that this had happened to him when he was tortured in Zanzibar. His face and his nose were scarred and twisted. When I asked him if that had been part of the torture in his home country he replied "Oh, no. This happened in the UK."

from a **Racial Justice Sunday** sermon
by Revd. Murdoch MacKenzie

STRANGERS GAME

A version of 'musical chairs' to examine ideas of exclusion and inclusion

You will need: chairs; a tambourine

- Make a circle of chairs facing inward with enough gaps for players to go in between them
- Divide the group into 2 teams
- Have one less chair than the number of players
- When the music stops all the players in Team A must find a chair
- Team B must try to prevent their opponents reaching a chair
- Remove a chair each time the music stops - the winner is the last one 'in'
- Repeat the game, swapping the roles of the two teams

Catholic Social Teaching

Dialogue builds fellowship between peoples

Populorum Progressio no. 73

DID YOU KNOW?

- At 40%, the poverty rate among black and minority ethnic people is double that for white British people
- One third of older people from ethnic minorities live in poverty

DISCOVER MORE

- **The Catholic Association for Racial Justice** promotes awareness and speaks on behalf of ethnic minority groups - for more info go to www.carj.org.uk
- **The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)** is an international Catholic organization that aids refugees, forcibly displaced peoples, and asylum seekers – for more info go to www.jrsuk.net
- Look at **People on the Move** an information leaflet on migrants, refugees and asylum seekers produced by Joan for Shrewsbury Diocese J&P at <http://jpshrewsbury.files.wordpress.com/2010/12/people-on-the-move1.pdf>

DISCUSS

- Name some groups or individuals who are often treated as 'outsiders'
- Does establishing dialogue between different groups help break down barriers and dispel prejudice?
- Can both sides be enriched by sharing stories and traditions?

ACT

- Look out for someone new who may feel lonely or isolated
- Celebrate diversity by holding an International Food Evening to sample recipes from around the world
- Invite people from other regions to share their customs, music and dance

JUSTICE AND PEACE: THE ARMS TRADE



Scripture

*They will hammer their swords
into ploughshares
and their spears into sickles.
Nation will not lift up sword
against nation,
no longer will they learn
how to make war.*

Isaiah 2:4

Catholic Social Teaching

Everyone talks about peace. Everyone claims to want it, but the proliferation of weapons of every type leads in the opposite direction.

The arms trade has the effect of complicating and distancing us from a solution to conflicts, all the more so, since it takes place to a great extent outside the boundaries of the law.

Pope Francis

REQUIREMENTS

Laptop to show the film
Information sheet

FILM

Where is the love?

10 mins

A film made by a group of school children in East London who were appalled to discover that the world's largest Arms Fair is held every two years right next door to their school.

Download from **East London Against Arms Fairs**
<http://elaaf.org/#films>

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Defence Security and Equipment International Exhibition is held every two years in London's Docklands (the latest one held in September 2013)
- The UK is the second largest provider of weapons in the world
- The cost of 3 B2 Stealth Bombers (\$2.2 billion) is more than the additional cost above current spending for achieving worldwide primary education for all by 2015 (\$5.6 billion)
- Advanced weapons are sold to countries at war with each other
- Weapons, tanks and missiles are sold to regimes that oppress their own people or attack their neighbours
- Delegates from countries that need aid for health services, education or agriculture are persuaded to incur debt to purchase weapons

DISCUSS

- Did anything in the film surprise or shock you?
- Do you think money should be spent on arms or should it be used to improve healthcare and/or education facilities?
- Should countries spend a sizeable part of their budget on warfare?
- Can you suggest alternatives to arms manufacture and the promotion of weapons sales?

ON THE LINE

- Everyone stands in the middle of the room.
- Statements are made that challenge a person's beliefs
It's always wrong to lie
It's always wrong to kill
You should always to tell the truth
- After each statement, those who agree move to one side
- Those who disagree move to the other side
- Each person then explains how they reached their decision and whether they were influenced by the rest of the group
- Are the choices we make always black or white?
- What about the grey area in the middle?

DISCOVER MORE

- To find out more go to Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT) www.caat.org.uk

JUSTICE AND PEACE: WATER JUSTICE

Scripture

*Let justice flow like a river
and righteousness like an
ever-flowing stream*

Amos 5:24



REQUIREMENTS

Laptop to show the film
Items for the game
Information sheet

FILM

Thirst for Change

3 mins

A **CAFOD** campaign film featuring ordinary people throughout the UK who are asking the Prime minister to use his influence to support the 'Sanitation and Water for All' initiative during his G8 Presidency in 2013

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgmuVBUEOjY>

Download a wide range of resources for **Creation Time** 1 September – 4 October 2014 from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland
<http://www.ctbi.org.uk/678>

*Your people yearn for clean water
but their chances are crushed by poverty
God of life, let waters flow and wash away injustice*

CAFOD prayer card cafod.org.uk/worship

DID YOU KNOW?

- **884 million** people are living without access to clean water, **14 times** the population of the UK
- **One in eight people** around the world don't have access to clean water
- The average person in the world's poorest countries uses **10 litres** of water every day for their drinking, washing and cooking
- The average person in Europe uses **200 litres** a day
- A **5 minute** shower uses more water than a person in a slum uses in a whole day
- **1.7 million deaths each year** are caused by poor water, sanitation and hygiene – more than from all forms of violence, including war

Facts taken from **CAFOD's *From Taps to Toilets: Think Before You Drink*** fact sheet on the **Thirst for Change** Resources page
<http://www.cafod.org.uk/take-action/thirst-for-change/thirst-for-change-resources>

WATER GAME

Imagine having to get up before daylight, walking for miles with a bucket just to get enough water for your family and then carrying the heavy bucket on the long trudge home

- Divide the group into teams
- Each team has to run to the end of the room, pick up a bean bag, put it on their head, walk back carefully to the start line and drop the bean bag in a bucket
- If you drop the bean bag you have to start over again
- Players have to wait until their team member is back at the start before the next one in the team can set off
- The team with the most bean bags in their bucket wins
- Discuss the difficulties that many people have to overcome just to get clean water

DISCOVER MORE

- Download some great resources – action ideas, video clips, posters, prayer and liturgy from **CAFOD** <http://www.cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-schools>
- Look at the new campaign **Waterproof** from **Progressio** which calls for poor and marginalised people to have more of a say in water management to enable them to get fair and sustainable access to the water they need for their livelihoods
<http://www.progressio.org.uk/content/waterproof-resources>

JUSTICE AND PEACE: INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE

Scripture

*Let your gifts
serve others*

1 Peter 4.7-11

*Sometimes it falls on a
generation to be great.*

*You can be that great generation.
Let your greatness blossom.*

**Nelson Mandela
Make Poverty History
Campaign 2005**

BE A GREAT GENERATION

- Does your school or your parish have a Youth Justice and Peace Group?
- If not, set up one with your friends!
- Decide what issues concern you, gather more info and get going!

REQUIREMENTS

Laptop to show the film
Items for the game
Information sheet

FILM

A Sporting Chance 4 mins 45

A short film from **CAFOD** that shows how the power of sport is changing lives around the world.

Download from youtube
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owaVgMbmqPQ>

SHOP TILL YOU DROP GAME

Divide the group into 2 teams

Team 1: the aim of the game is to buy as much as possible

- Make a list of all the things you'd like to buy if money was no object!
- As your team buys (runs for) an item tick it off the list
- To buy each item, the entire team must run across the room and back 10 times
- When your team has bought all the items you want, you all sit down

Team 2: the aim of the game is to buy more simply than Team 1. Once you've got your items you can sit down and take time to enjoy them!

- Make a list of all the things you really need but keep it as simple as possible
- As your team buys (runs for) an item tick it off the list
- To buy each item, the entire team must run across the room and back 5 times
- When your team has bought all the items you want, you all sit down

The game finishes once both teams have sat down

DISCUSS

- Did the film inspire you?
- Explore means of using sport music, drama or art to reach out to others in a positive way
- What are your gifts or talents?
- Think of ways you can use your gifts to help others and benefit the community

SHARE A MESSAGE OF PEACE

- See how César and Fredy, two musicians from Colombia use their music to teach young people an alternative to violent conflict

Go to
<http://www.cafod.org.uk/News/UK-News/World-Youth-Day-at-Home>

DISCUSS

- Which team is happier – the one with all the expensive things who have been so busy getting them all that they're most probably too tired to enjoy them?
- Or the one that chose more modest items but have time to relax and enjoy what they have?

Think carefully about what you buy.

- Do you really need so much stuff?
- What impact do your purchases have on other people?
- Are the goods fairly made and fairly traded, could they be re-used by someone else or recycled when you've finished with them?

DISCOVER MORE

- Look at the CAFOD website www.cafod.org.uk/schools
- Find out more about the **Live Simply Campaign** from livesimplyaward.org.uk/
- Download the *Elements of Peace* resource ideas from **Pax Christi** www.paxchristi.org.uk

JUSTICE AND PEACE: LITURGY

CREED

written by two 14 year-old boys

We believe in God
who made the sun and the sky,
the stars and the sea;
who calls us to live responsibly.

We believe in Jesus Christ
who became human;
who healed the sick;
who talked to children;
who made friends with sinners.

He burned brightly and offended many.
His journey was one of life and death
and resurrection.
His light continues to shine in the darkness.

We believe in the Holy Spirit
who inspired the scriptures
and whose breath we breathe.

We believe that God calls us
to be a community
committed to one another:
offering a welcome to everyone
old and young;
rich and poor;
strong and weak.

We believe that God calls us
to be peacemakers;
workers for justice;
sisters and brothers;
a light for our world. Amen.

DARE TO BE DIFFERENT!

Holy God!
When you sent your son he amazed,
challenged, inspired and even shocked.
He unveiled a radical lifestyle.
He revealed the potential for peace.
He began to unfold your Kingdom for us.

As we look at our world, at the injustice,
oppression and violence all around us,
our purpose becomes clearer and clearer.

Help us not to be satisfied
with the way things are.
Dare us not to accept second best.
Forgive our selfish complacency
and stifling comfort.
Guide us, not to be more like Jesus,
but just like Jesus:
Amazing, challenging; inspiring;
shocking; defiantly different!
Powerfully peaceful!

Give us the audacity to love without condition!
Give us the courage to stand up
and be counted!
Give us the voices to speak up
for the powerless.
Give us the arms to lift the weak.

"We have caught your dream
of a better world;
Take us and use us to build it!"

This prayer was published by Christian Aid in 1999,
and is reproduced with its permission

Pax Christi Prayer

Thank you loving God

For the gift of life
For this wonderful world which we all share
For the joy of love and friendship
For the challenge of helping to build your kingdom.

Strengthen

My determination to work for a world of peace and justice
My conviction that, whatever our nationality or race, we are all global citizens, one in Christ
My courage to challenge the powerful with the values of the Gospel
My efforts to forgive injuries and to love those I find it hard to love.

Teach me

To share the gifts you have given me
To speak out for the victims of injustice who have no voice
To reject the violence which runs through much of our world today.

Holy Spirit of God

Renew my hope for a world free from the cruelty of war
so that we may all come to share in God's peace and justice. Amen