

Faith Adventures Youth Resource

Free to use – please acknowledge when using beyond local church children's and youth work so others can find and use the resource themselves.

Embedded in Faith Adventures: Children Together, this youth resource is intergenerational in nature and designed to foster God-connection in church, home and beyond.

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children and families, please use this link: www.bit.ly/How-To-FAYR

Title: Proverbs 31: 8-9

Theme: Speak up

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Introduction: What would be helpful to know in my planning?

The Book of Proverbs is a book of wisdom literature in the Old Testament of the Bible. This particular chapter in Proverbs is written by a mother to her son who is the king, King Lemel in fact. She is setting out her expectations of those who have power and authority and the right way to use it rather than for greed and selfish reasons.

The Bible passage includes some rich vocabulary which may be new to some, however the word *destitute* is a word which may be heard on the news but yet the meaning is unknown. Destitute is an extreme version of poor. We often compare ourselves with others when we consider ourselves poor but that isn't always an accurate portrayal of those that truly are.

Today's session aims to highlight the issues which we feel passion about while focusing on destitution and poverty. This is a large issue and could go in many different directions, within Explore you may identify one issue, try to stick with that as you progress through the session.

The activities and Explore section hope to equip and empower the young people to speak up. Speaking up doesn't always require words but action and campaigning. This often takes time, therefore it's important to be mindful of the chain reaction today's session may start with some needing support beyond today to allow them to speak up and to be heard. Perhaps identify others who may be called upon to do that.

It is important to note that the expression *judge fairly* may provoke conversation about judging others, this is a good time to remind them that this passage is a mother writing to her son – a king – who in his role will be expected to judge people for their actions, not advice for us as to our to live on a daily basis.

Triggers: Those who are living in poverty, those who have challenges around speech.

Together – prayer and games

Let's start our time with God and each other well

Use this opening prayer or encourage young people to open the session with a prayer of their own.

All mighty God,

Be with us as we learn more about you through stories and people in the Bible.

Help us to walk in your way and follow your path.

Be with us as we make decisions that affect our lives, and the lives of those around us.

Amen

Alternatively, you may join with the Widgit prayer found in the Faith Adventures: Children together or else the Lord's Prayer found at the end of this session.

Active game - Pictionary Relay

This game encourages teams, or pairs, to be confident in speaking out about what they see.

Break your group into two teams. Place two small tables in the centre of the room, with a chair either side. Teams must line up behind the chairs on the same side of the table. One team member sits on each side of the table. Prepare a list of well-known books, films or songs in advance.

Quietly give both artists the same answer to draw. The team member sat opposite must guess the picture correctly – without giving it away to the other team. When they have guessed correctly, they can move to the back on the line; the next person in line can sit down to guess the next picture. The first team to get back to the first guesser, are the winners!

For small groups, complete the activity in pairs, keeping score of the number of correct answers each player wins. You could alternate drawing and guessing, so each person in the pair has a chance to try both activities.

Variation: Play the first round, as described above. For the second-round line teams up either side of one table. One team will take it in turns to draw pictures; the other team will take it in turns to guess. Swap players if you guess correctly or if you manage to keep the opposing team from guessing correctly in an agreed time. When you have finished the round, talk to the group about whether the drawing team deliberately made it difficult for the other team to guess. Was it fair? Is it always easy to notice when things are fair, or whether some groups of people are at a disadvantage?

Quieter game – Spot the difference

Part of noticing when things are not fair, is to notice difference.

Play with this theme by providing some spot the difference pictures and encouraging the children to use their skills to notice difference.

Paper based examples can be found on the holiday club material <https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Activity-sheets.pdf>

Online versions to show on a big screen and do as a group can be found here:

Minions : <https://youtu.be/4iy-PwLO93k>

Bluey: <https://youtu.be/3H75xN4DT0U>

You could also do it by playing the tray game. Fill a tray with lots of different things, and cover with a towel. Sit the children around the tray. Remove the towel and give them 45 seconds to have a look and memorise the items. Cover the tray again and change/remove a few things. Uncover the tray and see if the children can spot what is now different.

Experience – Bible story and songs

Hear, watch and sing the Bible story

This link takes you to New International Version

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%2031%3A8-9&version=NIV>

You may wish to research different versions of this reading on www.biblegateway.com
Recommended versions to try are NRSV, Easy-to-read, The Message, NIRV

**⁸ Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
for the rights of all who are destitute.**

**⁹ Speak up and judge fairly;
defend the rights of the poor and needy.**

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Watch: Stormzy – Superheroes <https://youtu.be/q-EW4-B11hw?si=263Hz6CFnqSPi6vT>

Martin Joseph: Jesus never said <https://youtu.be/22PQGC487gY?si=wTAsJH4T832xIMsV>

Questions for discussion

- Watch these two songs and consider what Jesus asks of us regarding standing up for others who cannot stand up for themselves.
- What actions do you want to take next?

Explore

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

A new way to explore the theme

This is a new way to explore the Bible passage and the theme for this week.

Alternatively, you may wish to use the Explore section from this week's Faith Adventures: Children Together to guide your exploration of the theme this week.

Campaigning to make the world a fairer place!

What are the things in our world that you think are unfair? Spend time as a group discussing the issues that concern you and things that you would like to see change. Once you have shared your thoughts, explore whether there is one idea that you can all agree is important. Is there one concern that you discussed, that everyone feels able to focus on as a group?

Use the JPIT guidance below, to help work through the process of how to campaign about issues you are concerned about.

<https://jpit.uk/youth/changetheworld>

Is this an issue that other members of your church are already aware of? Can you join in the work they are already doing?

Is this something new? How will you share your concerns with other members of the church and with church leadership? Who are the adults you could talk to about this? Can your youth leaders help with this?

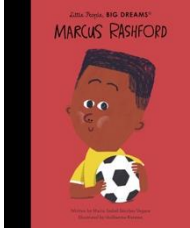
Have you got any ideas about how you could share your concerns and ideas creatively?

You could find out more about other campaigns, to get more ideas and inspiration.

Some useful starting information when wanting to campaign can be found in the appendices.

Modern parables

This section includes references to TV programmes, films, books, TED talks, TikTok etc aimed at this age group that will have been widely seen, or where a clip is available to use as a stimulus for discussion. You may also enjoy the picture book recommended for Faith Adventures: Children Together and explore the relevance of the story to the theme of the session in more depth – young people and adults are often well tuned in to the deeper meanings in materials aimed at younger people and the authors are often very aware of the adults reading the books to or with younger ones.



Marcus Rashford (Little People, BIG DREAMS) by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara, – 13 Sept. 2022, Publisher: Frances Lincoln Children's Books

<https://youtu.be/5S9cRSvQVfM?si=Ct4pHA-OW530Lvoc> By Lauren Martin books

Marcus Rashford, a talented footballer, grew up in poverty. Despite his success, he never forgot his childhood hunger and took it upon himself to lead a nationwide campaign to ensure no child goes hungry in 2020. He spoke out for those who couldn't, to make a change.

- I wonder what you would speak out about to make a change to people who cannot speak for themselves?

Group discussion

- Who are the people in the Bible passage who can't speak up for themselves?
- What does destitute mean?
- Is there a difference between what is your right and what we deserve?
- Do you know what your rights are as a young person?

Personal reflection

- If God is a God of love I wonder why some people are poor?
- Have you ever experienced unfairness?
- I wonder if there will always be poverty?

Express – prayer and creative activities

Praying together: enabling your group to respond spiritually

Praying together

Prayer Respond to the theme by writing or saying a short prayer. Alternatively use the creative prayer from Faith Adventures: Children Together for this session, or use the prayer activity below. Alternatively light a candle and play some music while you listen and talk to God together.

Using Prayer Placards

Use the prayer placards, designed during the response section of the session. You could play some quiet, reflective music or allow a time of silence. Encourage the group to place their placards around the edge of the room, with space in between each one. When the placards have been placed, ask the group to walk round the space quietly, noticing the concerns people have shared. Suggest that they could share these concerns silently with God – younger groups might it helpful to close the time of prayer with a simple spoken prayer, like the one below which names the issues raised.

Dear God,

We have noticed that things aren't always fair.

We are worried about.....

Amen

Spoken Prayer

God of justice and love,

Help us to **use our eyes** to see unfairness around us,
and to notice those who are overlooked.

Help us to **use our ears** to truly listen,
especially to voices that need to be heard.

Help us to **use our voice** to speak up boldly,
to stand for what is right, even when it's hard.

Help us to **use our hands** to act with kindness and courage,
to serve others and make a difference.

Help us to **use our hearts** to care deeply,
to be brave, compassionate, and loving every day.

Amen.

Responding together

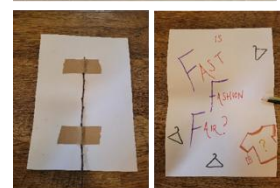
This is an opportunity for a social justice challenge, some research, craftivism, or a craft or STEM activity. You may have a specific activity chosen but free choice is also an option. Here are some suggestions for this week's theme. Choose whatever will work best for your group.

Making Prayer Placards

You will need:

- A3 paper or card
- pencils and erasers for sketching out a design
- coloured pens and pencils or paint and paintbrushes
- bamboo canes or sturdy sticks
- strong tape

Choose a justice issue that concerns the whole group, or allow group members to choose their own issue of concern. Spend time sketching out a slogan or image which challenges people to think further about the issue – you could use words starting with the same letter, replace letters or words with pictures – anything which will make the message stand out! Younger groups might prefer to draw a picture of something they would like to pray for. Once you are happy with your designs, use colours or paints to decorate your placards.



If you are using paint, you may need to tape your cane to the back of the placard before you start painting so your design doesn't smudge or run.

Challenge

Discipleship doesn't stop when you walk out of the church door – it is a part of everyday life. Take a challenge with you and try to make it part of your week.

You may think of your own suggestion of what you as an individual or a group might do in the coming week in response to what you have explored today. If not here are some suggestions:

- Use one of the “conversation starter” questions or the question below to talk with someone of a different generation or from a different setting and share your questions, thoughts, insights together. **How do you use your voice?**
- Research something suggested by JPIT, Resources (jpit.uk) *Commitment for Life* cforl.co.uk
- Write a song or poem or draw or paint a picture which expresses to God your feelings towards injustice and the need to speak out.

Thank you for exploring the **Proverbs** passage with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing sharon.lloyd@urc.org.uk or by sharing it on www.bit.ly/FACT_FB

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

and forgive us our sins As we forgive those who sin against us

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory

For ever and ever . Amen



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Campaigning ideas to get you started...



Poverty or destitution

- If someone doesn't have what they need to live well.
- If someone can't afford to pay for electricity or gas 
- Extreme poverty might also mean not having a home, or having to move home a lot.
- Sometimes poverty is hidden and sometimes it is easy to notice



Refugees

- A refuge is a safe place. 
- A refugee is someone who has left their home because it wasn't safe there anymore.
- Why do you think someone would need to leave their own home to find a refuge?
 - We sometimes use 'asylum seeker' or 'migrant' to talk about people who are looking for refuge or a better life in a new country.



Caring for creation

- God has asked all of us to care for creation.
- How well do you think we are doing?
- What are the good things people can do to care for the planet?
- How are people and the planet affected by the way we live?
- 'Living gently' is a good way to help care for creation
 - tiny differences make a big difference!

