Lesson Plan/Activity Ideas

Theme – Justice

Lesson Objectives - To understand what Justice means, to help children understand the importance and need for Justice. For children to learn examples of injustice and justice. For Children to be given the opportunity to engage in issues of global justice.

Key focuses – Civil Right influences. The life of Jesus. The Refugee Crisis. War and Famine. The work of feed the hungry.

Age – Primary Year 6 although a lot of this content can be adapted for anyone in Key Stage 2

Introduction to theme

Game – Build a Tower
2 volunteers, one is given paper, scissors, roll of sellotape, the other volunteer is given a stack of duplo bricks. They are tasked to build a strong tower in a 2/3 minute time frame. Half way through its likely that the person with the paper resources is struggling more so you could pull out another volunteer to help them. After the time is up you show both attempts to the class. The point of this game is to illustrate that the game wasn't really fair. The contestants weren't treated the same and weren't treated fairly and the duplo contestant was at an advantage even with the extra helper for the paper tower. This is how you can introduced the theme of Justice, that often justice is linked to fairness and whether people are treated the same.

Props – Duplo, paper, scissors, sellotape

Discussion - What is Justice?
At the front of the class on a piece of large flip chart paper write, Justice is .......
Then give each child a post it and get the children to write one word or a few words at most on what justice means to them, get the children to come and stick it up on the paper. Use this as a basis for discussion on what justice can mean with the class highlighting themes they have written.

Then ask the children ;
Why is Justice important in our world today? What would happen if we didn't hold to values of Justice?

Props – flip chart paper, post it notes, pens

Object Lesson – Band Aids
Pick 10 volunteers to come out and pick a slip of paper you have, they are to open it up. They will have been given an injury on their paper it may read, for example a split head, a
broken arm, a cut finger nail, a dislocated knee. Then give each of the volunteers a band aid (plaster) to deal with their injury. Ask them the question will it solve your injury problem and make it better?

Get the children to stand one side if the answer is yes and the other side if the answer is no. Then get them to share with the rest of the class what their injury was and emphasis to the class why a band aid (plaster) would or wouldn't help some. For some children a plaster will be what they need for others it wont help.

*The point of this object lesson is to illustrate that sometimes, justice and fairness doesn't always mean you get the same, because sometimes that doesn't work in every situation but explain that fairness and justice is people getting what they need.* Explaining that may mean freedom of speech for people living in a country where they aren't free to speak freely, it maybe an education, or clothes to wear.

Props – 10 slips of paper with an injury on each, 10 Band aids (plasters)

**Inspirational People who fought for justice on behalf of others**

Talk about Rosa Parks and/or Martin Luther King

Research their stories, and how Rosa refused to surrender her bus seat in march 1955 to a white man and how she was part of bringing change along with martin luther king who too fought for civil rights especially among African Americans. Expand on their campaigning and the issues within their society that were injustice that they over turned. Talk about the fact that they needed courage to speak against injustice.

Props -Show a picture of them on powerpoint as you talk (resource available)

**Esther and Justice**

Look at the character of Esther from the Old Testament and how she was used to bring justice to the jewish people and played a significant part in saving their lives and how she stood up for justice even if it meant her death. Briefly tell the children the main aspects to her story.

**Jesus and Justice**

Give examples to the children of how Jesus defended people who were often disregarded and considered outcasts often by the Religious leaders of the day and the community and how Jesus treated them with respect and dignity and fairness. i.e. people with leprosy Look at Luke Chapter 4 (verse 18-21) and the mandate Jesus had as he walked on the earth and how Christ followers are to take up that same call.

You can also talk about Micah 6 verse 8 and how can we live this out day to day,

At this point ask the children how can they show justice to others, in school and in a wider society context? Give them scenario examples if that helps.

**The Refugee Crisis**

Explain to the children you are going to be looking at a global issue and challenge them about the importance of responding to this in the right way.

Ask the children what is a refugee?

Talk about the facts – there are around 65.6 million refugees in the world today (as of June 17) and half of them are children.
If you wanted to focus in on a specific country to the refugee crisis here is some stats on Syria.
War started in 2011 and still continues today.
400,000 Syrians have died as a result of war. 11 million have left Syria. 13.5 million are still in the country.
You can also talk about the dangers refugees face if they choose to flee and talk about Alan Kurdi the 3 year old boy who's lifeless body was found on the shores of Greece in September 2015 talk about the injustice of this.
Talk about the unsafe boats people cross on and the smugglers exploiting these people for ridiculous payments to get a ride.
Also let children see images of before war and the effects of war on the community, on buildings and the devastation war brings to structure and to peoples personal worlds.
Talk about what life looks like living in a tent in a refugee camp and the needs people have. Talk about how its meant to be a temporary place of refugee but people have lived there for many many years.
Talk about the work of Feed the Hungry and how they work to help refugees by feeding and clothing them.
Challenge the children at this point that they could collect and donate clothing and dignity items to send out with Feed the Hungry.
The powerpoint will show pictures of children receiving aid, talk with the children how these children could feel receiving this and the hope it can restore in humanity.

Props – powerpoint pictures (available on website)

Activities linked to the Refugee Crisis

Clothes packing – Take in donated clothes for the children to help sort and pack for refugees that feed the hungry are supporting.

Props – used clothes, dignity items i.e. new nappies, hair brushes, toothbrushes etc.
Banana boxes

Drama – Becoming a Refugee
Put children into groups of around 6. First Get each group to be human sculptures and make themselves into a house. Then give each group a scene linked to the refugee crisis that they have to act out in a 90 sec skit.
Scene 1 -Life is normal – get up, go to school
Scene 2 – War begins and people start to die
Scene 3 – Deciding to flee
Scene 4 -Crossing the sea
Scene 5 -Arriving at a Refugee camp and being helped.

Feed the Hungry -Every child, everyday feeding program

Talk to the Children how feed the hungry exists to see that Children are treated right and are given what they need after facing in injustice of war or famine.
You could talk about Matthew 25 verse 35 and link it to the work of Feed the Hungry
Talk about the 21 countries feed the hungry work in and how many children they are feeding around the world daily (now around 153,000 as of June 17)
Show the children the feeding bowls, sporks and food that is sent to them and pass them round the class
Explain what's in the pack of food, how many it feeds, how long it will keep the children
alive (a sachet feeds around 6 and contains – rice, lentils and soya plus a vitamin and mineral sachet inside. People may add vegetables or fruit to the meal if they are able in these countries. This could keep a child alive for up to 4 days.)

Explain that children are often given this meal in schools or education programmes as an incentive to learn and to give them energy each day to walk to school and to help their concentration for learning. If they don’t get food its harder to learn.

Ask the children if they can guess how much it costs to feed a child for a month. The £4 a month will likely surprise the children. Explain how money can go so much further in a country like Kenya or Uganda. Compare with the children what they could get for £4 here, its isn't even 2 McDonald happy meals!!

The powerpoint available will show pictures of children getting food in a refugee camp in Uganda where feed the hungry is helping feed children.

Props – powerpoint available, packets of food, bowl, sporks

**Conclusion/Application**

We can stand up and speak out for what’s right and for fairness in our communities, we can tackle issues such as bullying and prejudices such as race, social class.

We can be global citizens of change. War and famine brings injustice upon people, we may not be able to stop the injustice of it but we can do something to act upon it and help those in need. Acting is justice, and playing our part is doing right by these people found in horrible hardships. Just because its not happening in our country, doesn’t mean we cannot help, we can do something. Explain how playing their part could mean a difference to life or death for a child.

e.g A coat and a sleeping bag could stop them getting phenomena in the winer and save their life.

Giving £4 may mean another child won’t starve to death that month.

At this point you can encourage the children to collect clothes for refugees or you could with the teachers lead and permission encourage a fundraiser they can help plan to help feed more children with feed the hungry.