

Welcome to Families on Faith Adventures @ Home!

This resource has been put together for you by the United Reformed Church Children's and Youth Work team and the synod CYDOs and their equivalents.

We hope you will enjoy sharing a time of faith and fellowship together as a family through these stories, games, activities, and prayers. They are designed as a 'pick and mix' of ways to experience God's message through the Bible, exploring what it means to you and express that in words and action. They are not linked to the lectionary but can be used in any order as we explore all the different parts of the Bible.

The Walking the Way challenges are one way of continuing our walk with Jesus throughout the week.

These ideas are designed to be intergenerational - maybe even to be shared with family or friends via the internet.

These activities are planned to be used together as a family and under adult supervision. Please be aware of your family's ages and abilities as some activities may need more adult support than others. **Stay safe and have fun!**



With many varieties of activities and things to do to help explore the theme. Look out for this 'hands on' symbol.

This week's Bible story is:

Let Justice Flow Amos 5 verses 21 - 24



and



Illustration by
Richard Gunther via freebibleimages.com

Get to know your Bible

The Bible is like a library made up of 66 books written by many different people over many years.

The Old Testament books were written before Jesus was born. They are the holy stories he would have grown up hearing and reading. There are 39 of these.

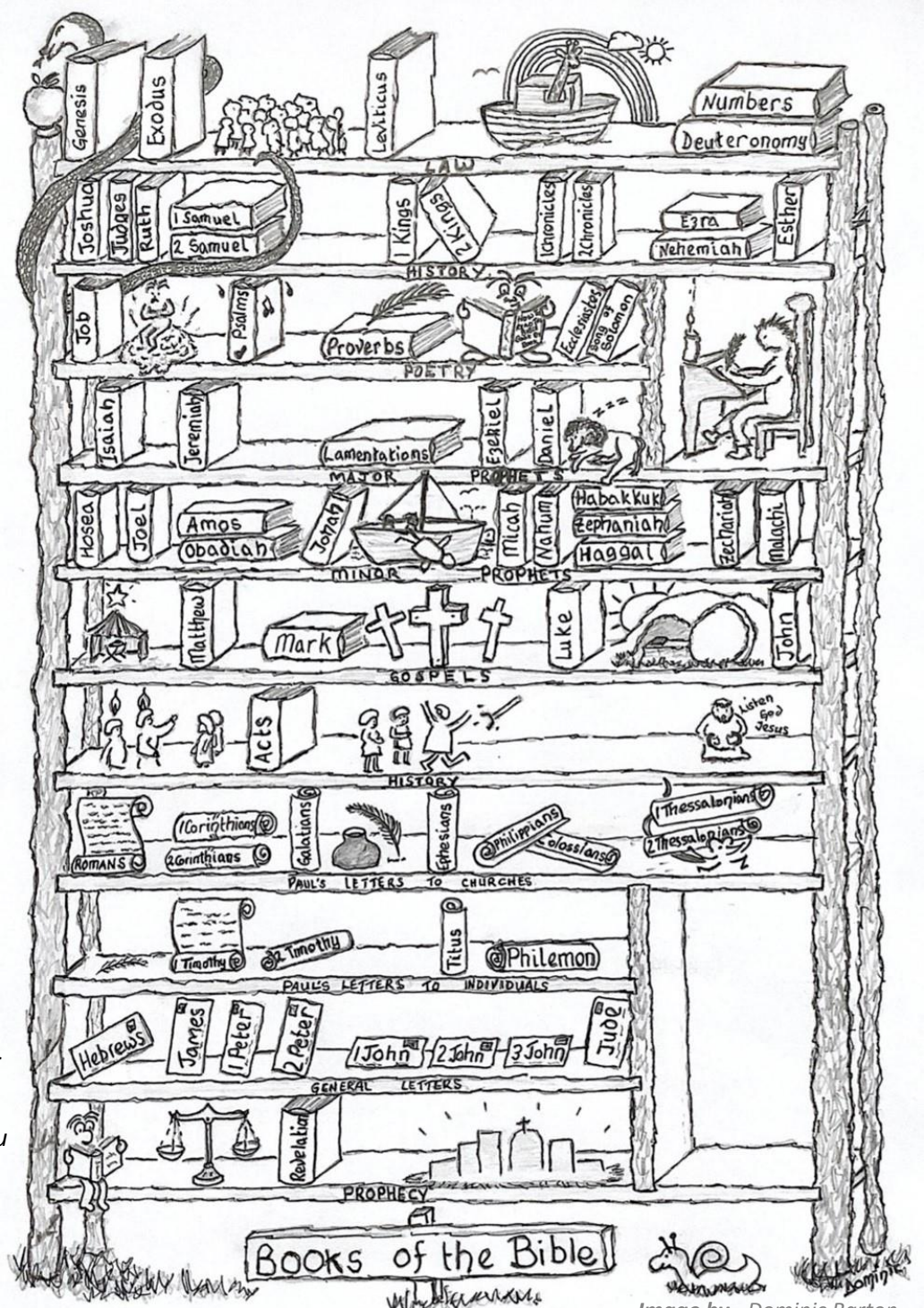
The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.



Can you find and colour the book on the bookshelf that this week's story is from?

If you have a Bible, see if you can find the story in there.

You could print this out once and colour each new book on the bookshelf as you read stories from it.



Bible context: Amos

The book of Amos is believed to have been written by Amos himself or some scribes who lived at the time of Amos. The book was written many, many years before the birth of Jesus.

Amos was a shepherd who tended his sheep in a town called Takoa, which is a few miles from Jerusalem. This book describes Amos' foresight of the war and destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel. Amos was a prophet, sharing messages from God with his people.

The following Bible verses encourage us to look around and see the injustices in our world and how we are called to make a difference.

Online versions of the story

Watch and Listen

How to change the world. This is an amazing video where loads of ideas on how we all can change the world. <https://youtu.be/4z7qDsSKUmU>

Be look listen do a new story which featured in Families on faith adventures at home in July 2020.

https://youtu.be/KKw_1qvmR0c

Amos The Shepherd by Holy Tales Bible Story <https://youtu.be/Wqa8kAN4rYA>

Dance and Sing

Help Me Be Your Eyes Lord Jesus by Duggie Dug Dug https://youtu.be/N94BBGiq_vQ

I will be just - a song that explains justice for kids <https://youtu.be/uuZEJ5h1AU8>

The Justice Song by Selorm Tamakloe and Kaighn Christy https://youtu.be/yxTGsxxX_fA

The Story: Amos 5 verses 21 - 24 (from The International Children's Bible)

The Lord says, "I hate and reject your feasts.

I cannot stand your religious meetings.

You offer me burnt offerings and grain offerings.

But I won't accept them.

You bring the best fellowship offerings.

But I will ignore them.

Take the noise of your songs away from here!

I won't listen to the music of your harps.

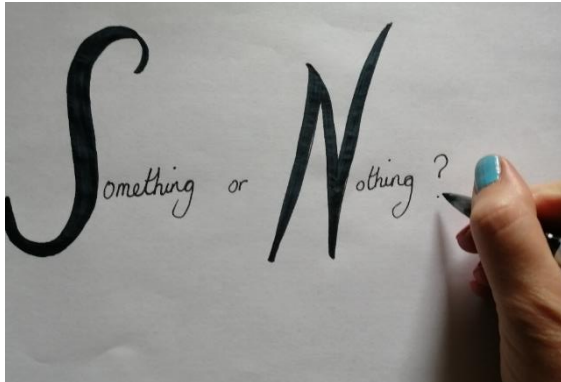
But let justice flow like a river.

Let goodness flow like a never-ending stream.

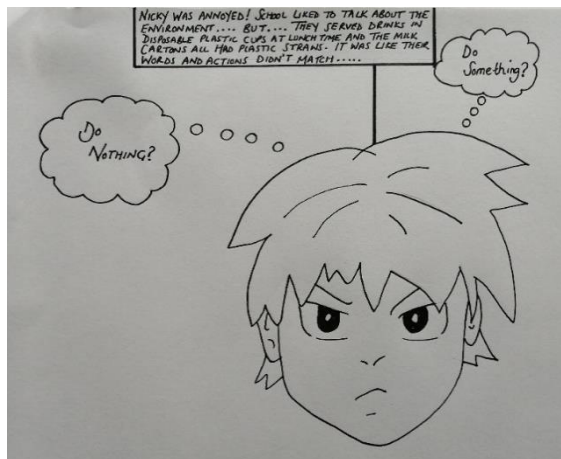
Scripture quotations are taken from the International Children's Bible®, copyright © 1986, 1988, 1999, 2015 by Tommy Nelson. Used by permission.

Ideas to Retell/Explore the Story

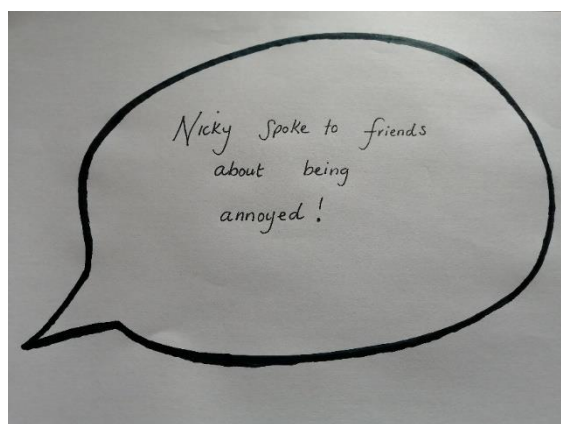
This is a new story to share together which will help you to think about the Bible passage together, in a new way.



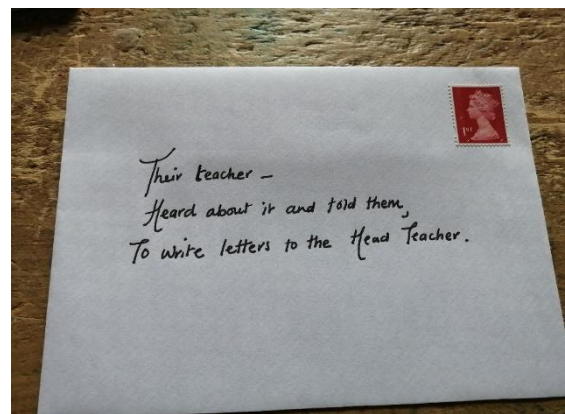
Nicky was annoyed! School liked to talk about the environment BUT they served drinks in disposable plastic cups at lunchtime and the milk cartons ALL had plastic straws. It was like their words and actions didn't match.



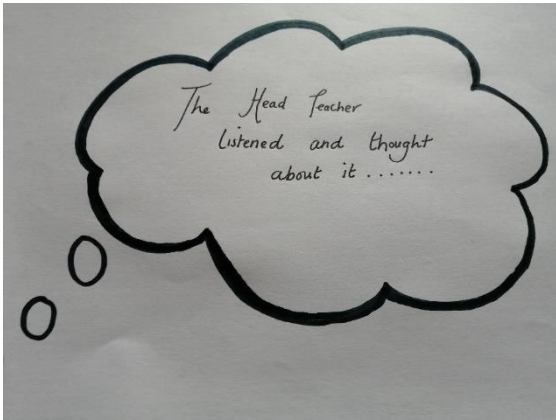
Should Nicky.....
Do Nothing? or Do Something?



Nicky spoke to friends about being annoyed.



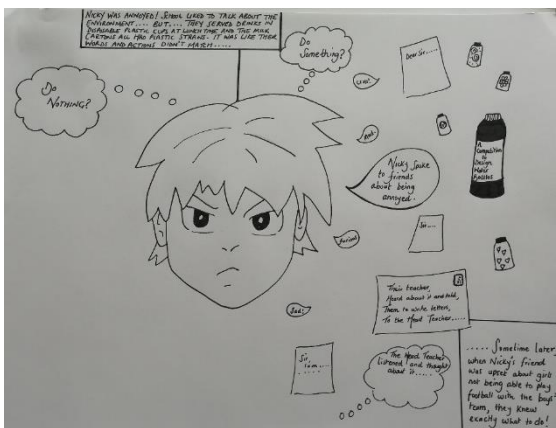
Their teacher heard about it and told them to write letters to the **h**Head teacher.



The Head teacher listened and thought about it.



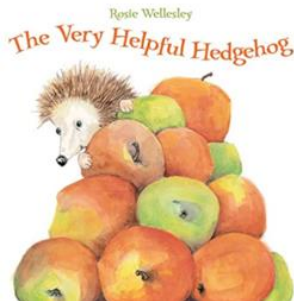
There was a competition to design re-usable water bottles and the school started using paper cups.



Sometime later, when Nicky's friend was upset about girls not being allowed to play football with the boys' team, they knew exactly what to do.....

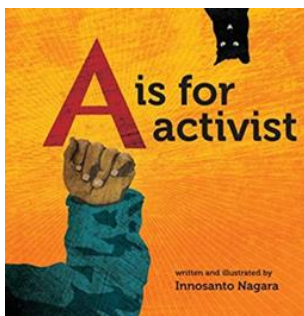
Listen to the story on <https://youtu.be/5ATD-PHnJ4>

Modern Parables – books that explore the same theme



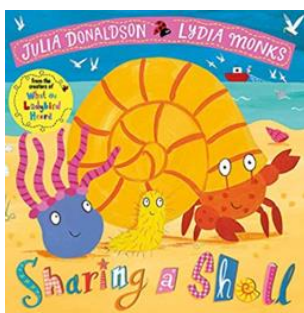
'The Very Helpful Hedgehog' by Rosie Welleley.

This is a story of finding unexpected ways of helping each other.



'A is for Activist' by Innosanto Nagara

This is a little book with some big challenges and messages, to all our little activists.



'Sharing a Shell' by Julia Donaldson

A story of how we share together, and work together and how things collapse when the cooperation stops.

Table Top Discussions

Each day over a mealtime, have a quick conversation. Here are a few questions to get you going.

- I wonder what part of this story you liked best?
- I wonder what small things we can do to make a big difference to those around us?
- I wonder if there are injustices we want to change?
- How can we be more just in the way we live?

families on faith adventures

@ home

What's in the box?

What treasures can you find to put in the box for your little ones to explore?

Perhaps older children could help find the things.



Use a box or a bag to hold the treasures and encourage any little ones to explore what's in the box/bag each week to go with the Bible story.



Emergency vehicle toys



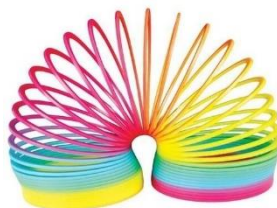
Map/ globe/ atlas



Banner/ flags



Blue blanket like a river



Something with rainbow colours for God's promise

Pray Together

Justice River Prayer



Look at the “Justice River” craft in the “To do together” section of this week’s FOFA@H to help you with this prayer.

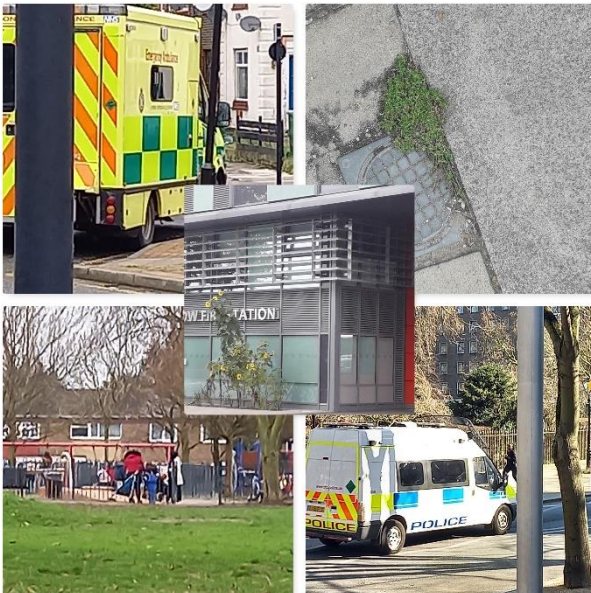
Using the words and the letters with ideas about **Justice**, pray for the situations you are aware of where things are not right and fair. Pray for those who are trying to make a difference right where they are. Allow God to speak to you and think about how and where you might help to be a river of justice.

Dear God,

As you sent your son **Jesus** to be amongst **Us**, he **Saw** first hand how we often we find life **Tricky**, **In** so many ways. We thank you that **Jesus** **Came** as an **Example** of Justice for all. Help us in all we say and do to make a difference as we share the love **Jesus** has for everyone. Amen



Noticing Prayers



Noticing prayers are a type of arrow prayer – a prayer that is short and to the point, simply giving what you notice to God.

Throughout the day, remember that God sees and hears everything that you do, and you can just give it to God. You can pray justice for your community whenever you are out and about.

An ambulance, a hospital, a doctor’s surgery – these things might remind you to pray for people who are sick, their families, and the people who care for them. A school, a nursery, a college – these things might remind you to pray for those who teach and those who learn, especially if they find this hard. A struggling plant or some litter might prompt you to pray for God’s world and the environment. A queue for the bus might prompt you to pray for God to bless the people in that queue.

What can you notice today?

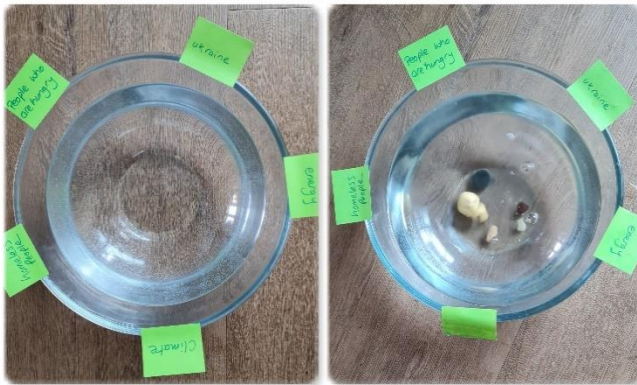
Pray Together

Ripple Prayers

You will need: A large bowl filled half filled with water
Some small pebbles or gravel



Take a bowl of water, the wider the better, and place labels or symbols around the edge to represent the situations at home, in your community and in the wider world that worry or concern you. Drop in a pebble at the centre to represent where you are and see how the ripples spread right to all the situations. No matter how small we are and how big the situations feel, our prayers can make a difference. As you drop each of the pebbles, ask God to be in those situations.



Use the ripples to help you be still and pray.

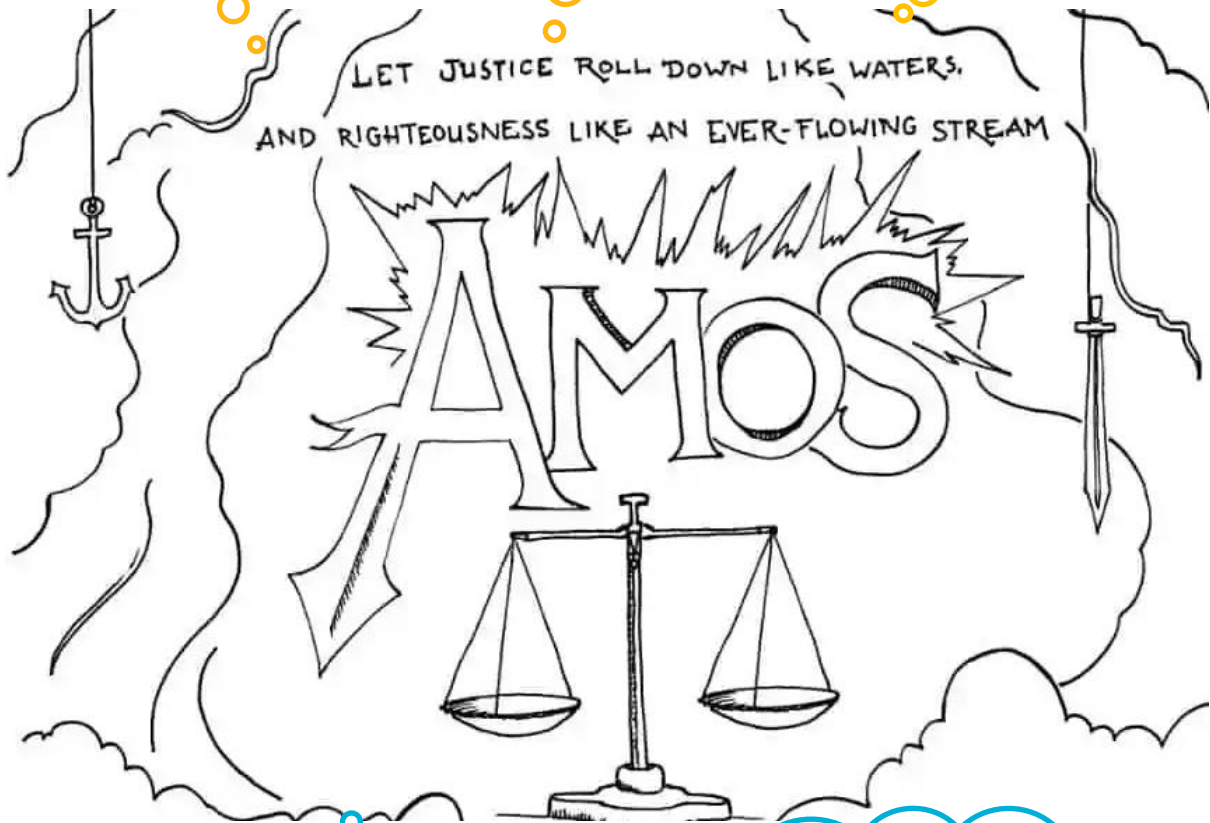
A film of waters ripples to watch

[\(199\) realistic water ripple effect - YouTube](#)

*I wonder what you think
justice means?*

*I wonder if this passage
makes you think of any
streams or rivers you
have seen?*

*I wonder why the
prophet Amos said
this?*



*I wonder if you can
share a story about
some injustice you
have seen or heard
about?*

*I wonder how you feel
about the idea that God
might reject your prayer
and worship if you don't
do anything about
injustice?*

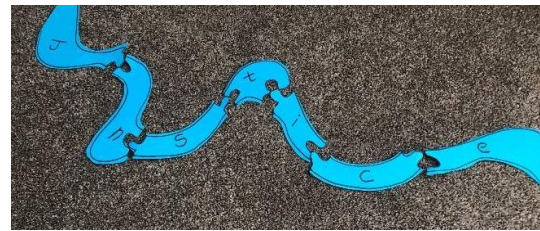
*Illustration by
Mandy Groce via ministry-to-children.com*

To Do Together...

Craft Justice Rivers

You will need: Paper coloured blue or blue card
- you could stick your coloured card onto recycled card
Scissors
A pen

On your paper/ card draw a river shape then divide it into seven pieces, placing the letters that form JUSTICE onto the pieces – so when you put your jigsaw river together it spells the word. Now you decide how you wish to divide your pieces - you do not have to cut these as jigsaw shapes, you could do waves, zigzags, a mixture or a simple straight line - maybe you want a combination.



On the reverse of each lettered piece, think of something you could do that would allow people to see that you follow Jesus' example, not just on Sundays but as often as possible.

You may want to make a river and offer it to a friend. Ask them to think about this too, or you may want to make a pack and pass it to an older person in church who may use it to lobby an M.P., write or email the local newspaper. Together, old or young, we can all make justice count.

Here are some ideas:

- J** Joy to others- how can you display this?
- U** Use your faith, let people see that having Jesus as your special friend is great.
- S** Share your skills and use them to help others.
- T** Take a stand and make a difference in your area.
- I** Involvement, get involved with supporting issues that can change lives for good.
- C** Care, how might you show you care for someone or something in your community?
- E** Encourage others to follow the example Jesus taught us of helping all.

To Do Together...

Noisy Play

The Bible passage talks about the fact that God doesn't like the sound of their music because they aren't living in a way that is fair to others.

What sounds do you like?

What sounds are horrible?

Explore different objects in your house and the noises they make. Which make a nice sound and which make horrible sounds?

How can you make them last longer?

How can you make them quieter?

How can you make them louder?



If you tap a metal cheese grater with a metal spoon, gently, it sounds lovely. If you bang it too hard, or scrape the spoon across the grating holes, it sounds horrible! You can use a tea towel to make the sound quieter.

How far away can you stand and still hear the noise?

Is it louder when you stand very close?



To Do Together...

Broken Tiles

You will need: A piece of cardboard or wood
Some broken crockery or ripped magazines

What you do:

Take the broken or ripped pieces and put them together, maybe write on them to highlight an injustice important to you.

Attach the ripped image from a magazine using glue, do not be tempted to join them all back together as we want to show the torn edges.



If you are using broken tiles or crockery, stick them onto a board using tile adhesive.

(Adult help needed. Be careful to wear protective gloves and glasses if breaking them into smaller pieces. To break them safely, wrap them in a towel to prevent them shattering too much and then hit them with a hammer.)

Display these images for other people to see and be challenged by the justice issue you are passionate about. Think about how justice flows to form your image.

Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

**Our Walking the Way
Challenge this time is...**

Everyday Faith:

Do you go to church, or join church things online, either on a Sunday or in a weekday group? This is a tough challenge. Sometimes we join in a bit reluctantly, with our minds on other things, or maybe for the wrong reasons. Or maybe we join in but we're irritated by one of the other people who's there. Everyone does it at some time or other. This week, try really hard to keep your mind on God and on how God might want you to react.

Scrapbooking:

Did you make a broken tile? If you did this on paper, put it in your scrapbook and write a bit alongside it about what situations you're aware of today where there's injustice, in the world, your community, or in your everyday life. How might God feel about these situations? If you used crockery to make your tile, why not take a photo of it or draw it for your scrapbook?

Take it Further:

We thought about justice last May when we looked at Micah 6, verse 8. Why not re-read it in your Bible or have a look at the FOFA@H issue

<https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Families-on-Faith-Adventures-Week-107-Just-Do-It.pdf>

Can you learn this verse off by heart?



The
United
Reformed
Church

**families
on faith adventures**

at home

Adventurers Go!

You've shared together, now share with us!

Why not send photos of your crafts, your treasure boxes, your Walking the Way challenges - or dress up to make a tableau of the Big Story and take a photo to send in.

*Email your photos to: lorrainewebb@urc.org.uk
with parental permission for them to be used in publicity and online URC social media.*

*Alternatively, share them on our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/URCchildren.and.youth/>*

*Remember you can find more resources on our website:
<https://urc.org.uk/resources-for-children-and-youth>*

And if you've enjoyed these activities, why not see whether your local church runs Pilots or Friends on Faith Adventures (FOFA) when things get back to normal again.

Created for you by

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The
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