

2023 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Do good; seek justice (*Isaiah 1:17*)

CHILDREN AND YOUTH RESOURCE

The 2023 WPCU international and Canadian resources are available to download at:
weekofprayer.ca/2023-wpcu-resources (English)
semainedepriere.ca/fr/ressources-pour-la-spuc-2023 (French)

This year's WPCU theme is focused on justice and how we are called to seek justice in our contexts. Here are some ideas for children's ministry and youth groups that might help you explore what it means to seek justice in the Church.

- 1) [Watch: "Justice" | BibleProject™](#) - The Bible Project has a video on justice and its biblical context, meant for older children. It has English and French subtitles.
- 2) [Watch: "How To Read the Prophets" | BibleProject™](#) - The Bible Project also has a video on the prophets as an introduction to the biblical prophets and prophecy. Like the first video, this one is also meant for older children. Again, the video has English and French subtitles.
- 3) Read [Phyllis's Story](#) and reflect on how it relates to the theme of "Do good; seek justice". Follow-up activities could include decorating orange shirts or inviting a local Indigenous artist / storyteller to share stories or art. Phyllis' Story can also be downloaded [in French](#).
- 4) Write "*Justice is...*" on a large chart/posterboard. Give each child/youth a post-it-note and have them write one or two words on what justice means for them. Stick the post-it-notes to the large chart/posterboard and use this as a discussion starter. Highlighting the themes written down, discuss what justice means for them. Ask "*Why is justice important in our world today? What would happen if we didn't hold values of justice?*"
- 5) Discuss what it means to "Do good; seek justice". Do we live in a fair and just society? What are some ways in which we can help those in our community? You may wish to organize a food bank drive or volunteer at a local food bank with your children/youth.
- 6) Hold a blanket exercise for children/youth. Follow these instructions to get started: https://presbyterian.ca/wp-content/uploads/Reconciliation_Activities_for_Children_Activity2.pdf
- 7) Create a paper chain of injustice and division. Distribute strips of paper and encourage the children/youth to write things that divide or restrict us. Examples: "*a person's skin colour matters*"; "*boys are smarter than girls*"; "*what a person wears is important*"; "*it is okay to gossip*"; etc. Connect each of the individual paper strips to form a chain. Explain and talk about the consequences of the chain of injustice and division. At the end of the activity, have the children/youth pull the chain apart!

- 8) Create a *prophetic* megaphone! The biblical theme of “Do good; seek justice” comes from the Book of Isaiah. Isaiah was a *prophet*; a *prophet* is someone with whom God speaks directly and who speaks to others on God’s behalf. Use construction paper and other craft materials to create and decorate a *prophetic* megaphone that can be used by the children/youth to share the news of God’s love and call for justice.

- 9) Put on a skit! For older children, you can encourage them to write and put on a 5-10 minutes skit for your church that shows what justice looks like for them. Examples: justice in the classroom (*How do we see and stop bullying?*), justice when we play sports (*How do we show kindness when someone loses a game/match?*), and justice with our friends (*How do we support our friends when they are going through a tough time?*); etc. What is something that is unjust in our world, and what can we do to make it right?