



cmsireland
equipping the church **in mission**



Purple Group

NAME:

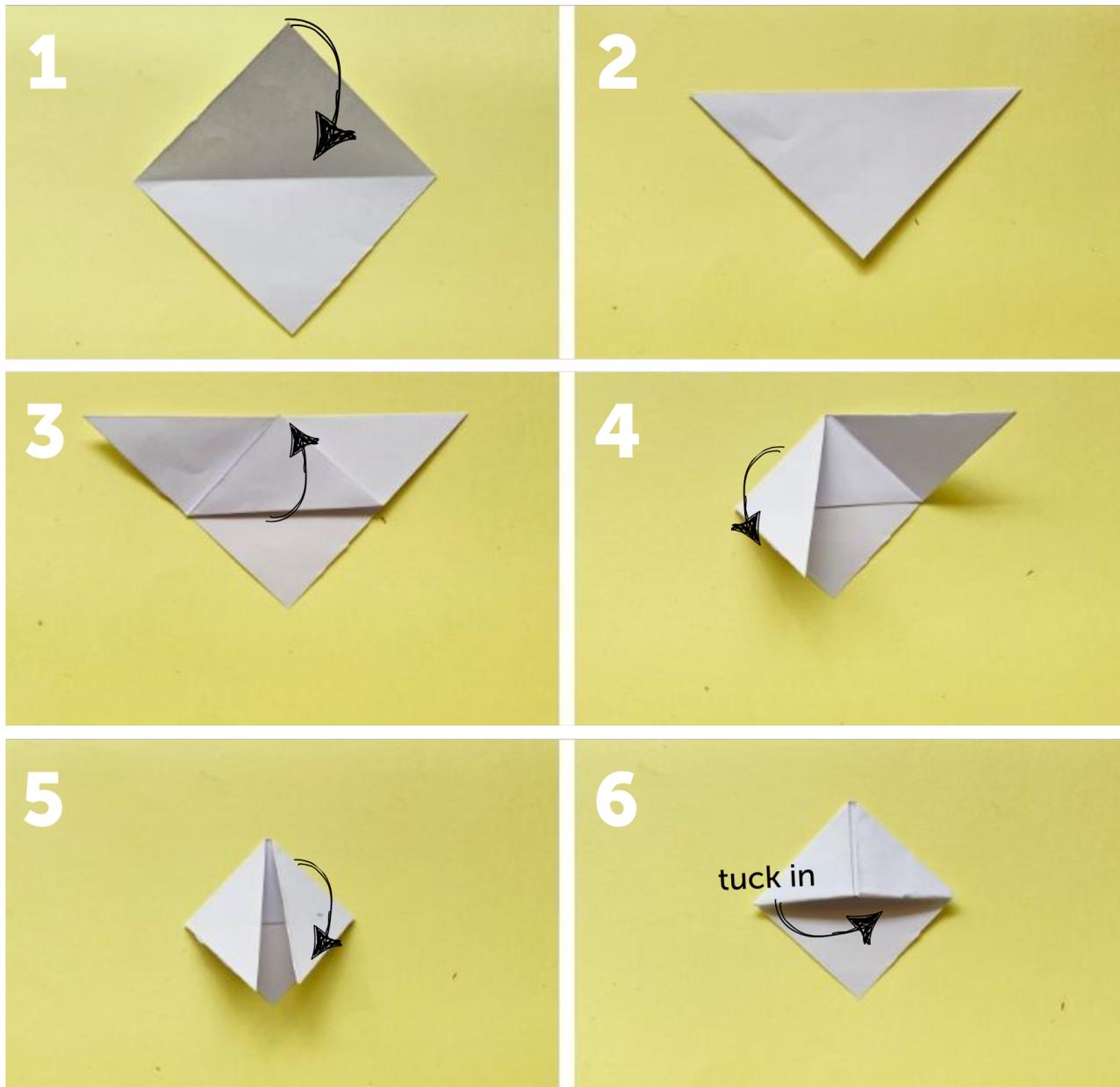
CLASS:



Session 1

Origami Bookmark
Craft

Origami Bookmark



Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Love your neighbour as yourself. Mark 12: 29-31

Key Elements



PRAYER

Father God, thank you for your love – that you want us to be honest and real with you. Help us to live and love others the way you want us to. Amen

MEMORY VERSE

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Micah 6:8



Session 2

Where is God
when people suffer?

Being FAIR



What does it mean to be fair?

Explain the difference between fairness and equality.

Note down some situations that are either:

- equal but not fair
- fair but not equal
- both equal and fair

situation 1	Fair Equal Both
situation 2	Fair Equal Both
situation 3	Fair Equal Both

Humanity chose to live outside God's just design.

Genesis 1: 26-27
If Genesis Ch 1 and 2 describe God's world where justice and righteousness are still intact, what do these verses reveal to us about identity and our place in the world?

God called and sent Abraham to rebuild a community as a blessing to the nations. What does **Genesis 18: 17-18** tell us about how this community should reveal God to the nations?

Abraham's missional family grew and became known as Israel. They are enslaved and oppressed but God sets them free. **Exodus 6: 6**

Israel, previously oppressed, now becomes the oppressor. **Amos 5: 11-13**

As God's missional people set up community again after Egypt, God sets out his law for them. In **Deuteronomy 4: 5-7**, how is justice linked with Israel's mission?

How then shall we live?



God sent many prophets to warn Israel that their religion was useless without practising justice. What rebuke does God give Israel and what is his command to transform how they live? **Zechariah 7: 9-10**

How is Jesus' death and resurrection the ultimate act of justice? **1 Peter 2: 22-25**

Unable to fully obey the law, the world remained under God's condemnation. **Hebrews 10:1-4**

Jesus comes to establish God's Kingdom. What instances in the life of Christ demonstrate that he fulfils the just and righteous ideal?

The whole of humanity, including God's missional nation Israel, perpetuates systems of injustice.

Genesis 1: 26-27

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Genesis 18: 17-18

¹⁷ Then the Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? ¹⁸ Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him".

Exodus 6: 6

⁶ Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgement'.

Deuteronomy 4: 5-7

⁵ See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the Lord my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of it. ⁶ Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." ⁷ What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him?

Amos 5: 11-13

¹¹ You levy a straw tax on the poor and impose a tax on their grain. Therefore, though you have built stone mansions, you will not live in them; though you have planted lush vineyards, you will not drink their wine. ¹² For I know how many are your offenses and how great your sins. There are those who oppress the innocent and take bribes and deprive the poor of justice in the courts. ¹³ Therefore the prudent keep quiet in such times, for the times are evil.

Zechariah 7: 4-10

⁴ Then the word of the Lord Almighty came to me: ⁵ "Ask all the people of the land and the priests, 'When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months for the past seventy years, was it really for me that you fasted?' ⁶ And when you were eating and drinking, were you not just feasting for yourselves?' ⁷ Are these not the words the Lord proclaimed through the earlier prophets when Jerusalem and its surrounding towns were at rest and prosperous, and the Negev and the western foothills were settled?" ⁸ And the word of the Lord came again to Zechariah: ⁹ "This is what the Lord Almighty said: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. ¹⁰ Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.'

Hebrews 10:1-4

¹ The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. ² Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshippers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. ³ But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. ⁴ It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

1 Peter 2: 22-25

²² "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." ²⁵ For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.



Activity:

Prayer Jar

1. Fill your jar with layers of different dried food. Make sure they are all equal in size!

 *write* 2. Write a prayer using the prompts on screen.



Prayer Jar

○



3. Cut out the prayer tag, add some string, tie it around the neck of your jar, bring it home and share your prayer with your family.

4. Keep the jar somewhere you will see it every day to help you remember that we are all equally loved by God and to help you give thanks to God when you pray.

PRAYER

Father God, thank you that you see so much more than we can see. Help us to see beyond ourselves, to the world around us and the people in it. Help this bigger picture give us bigger hearts and a stronger desire to be more generous like you. Amen

MEMORY VERSE

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Micah 6:8

The Blind Man And The Elephant

It was six men of Indostan, to learning much inclined,
who went to see the elephant (Though all of them were blind),
that each by observation, might satisfy his mind.

The first approached the elephant, and, happening to fall,
against his broad and sturdy side, at once began to bawl:
"God bless me! but the elephant, is nothing but a wall!"

The second feeling of the tusk, cried: "Ho! what have we here,
so very round and smooth and sharp? To me tis mighty clear,
this wonder of an elephant, is very like a spear!"

The third approached the animal, and, happening to take,
the squirming trunk within his hands, "I see," quoth he,
the elephant is very like a snake!"

The fourth reached out his eager hand, and felt about the knee:
"What most this wondrous beast is like, is mighty plain," quoth he;
"Tis clear enough the elephant is very like a tree."

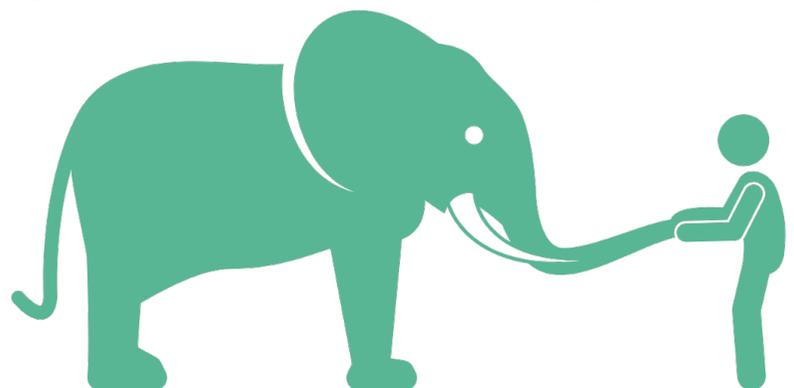
The fifth, who chanced to touch the ear, Said; "E'en the blindest man
can tell what this resembles most; Deny the fact who can,
This marvel of an elephant, is very like a fan!"

The sixth no sooner had begun, about the beast to grope,
than, seizing on the swinging tail, that fell within his scope,
"I see," quoth he, "the elephant is very like a rope!"

And so these men of Indostan, disputed loud and long,
each in his own opinion, exceeding stiff and strong,
Though each was partly in the right, and all were in the wrong!

So, oft in theologic wars, the
disputants, I ween,
tread on in utter ignorance, of
what each other mean,
and prate about the elephant,
not one of them has seen!

John Godfrey Saxe





“Open your mouth. Be right and fair in what you decide. **Stand up** for the rights of those who are suffering and in need.”

Proverbs 31:9

Session 3

Equal value
Different starting point

Antony Njoroge

CEO of Tumaini Africa Foundation, Nairobi, Kenya



“No giving of any kind should take away the dignity of the receiver. That’s why the concept of sharing is the driving spirit and philosophy in our community work. We as TAF receive from people who make us feel important. Our duty is to be stewards of this aspect of importance to everyone.”

“Learn to do good; **seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause.**”

Isaiah 1:17

What do these verses and Antony’s statement teach us about how we should act?



MEMORY VERSE
“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”
Micah 6:8

reality
One person gets **more than they need** while other people get **less than they need**. A huge disparity is created between them.

equality
The assumption is that **everyone benefits from the same supports**. This is considered to be equal treatment.

equity
Everyone gets the support they need which produces equity.

justice
All 3 can see the game without supports or accommodation because **the cause(s) of inequity have been addressed**. The systemic barrier has been removed.

PRAYER

Father God, help us to remember that together we can be part of changing things that are unfair and unjust. Help us to have the courage to do justice and love one another well. Amen



Product Procurement

Session 4

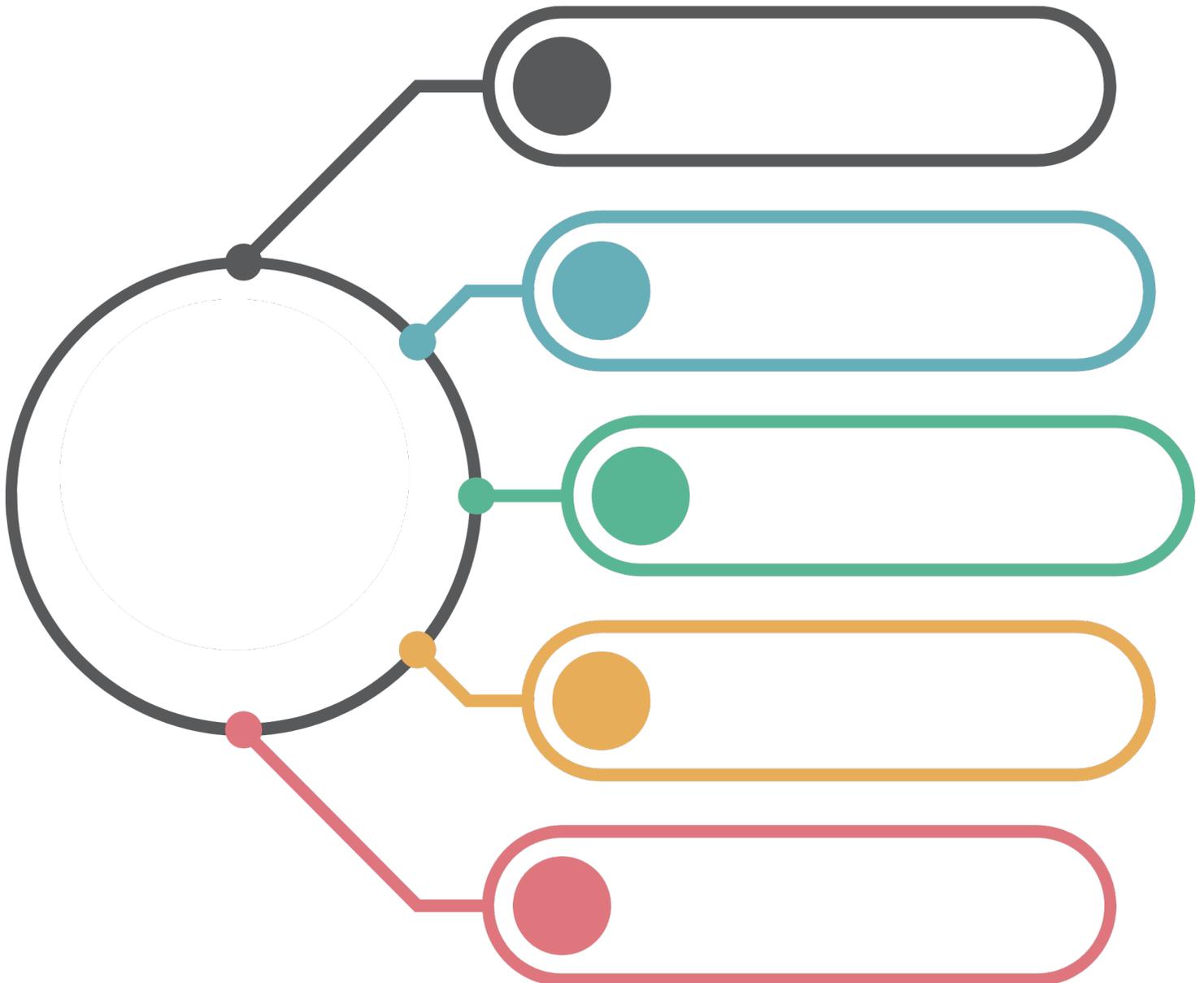
Fair Play for all

Activity:

Select a product you bought recently - clothing/device/food.

Trace its journey.

- How many hands made it?
- How many people distributed it?
- What was involved in the selling process?
- How were they each treated? Who benefited most from the sale of your product?
- Is this a just process? Explain.





Map your learning from
'Fair Play' onto this verse.

"Finally, all of you,
have **unity** of mind,
sympathy, brotherly
love, a **tender** heart,
and a **humble** mind."
1 Peter 3:8

PRAYER

Father God, as part of your global family of faith we thank you for one another, for the ways in which we can learn from one another. Help us to work together to bring about 'Fair Play' for all. Amen

MEMORY VERSE

"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Micah 6:8