



# CMSI Children's Resource

Teaching plans,  
notes and appendices





**Key teaching point + Fairness and fake faith**

- \* faith lived out in practice
- \* Church at the centre of community and life

**Session 1**  
**Yellow**

The *Fair Play* material can be used in whatever order or format works best for you. However, the following suggested outline may prove helpful.



**Group Time (PPT slide 1)**  
Introduce the **Fair Play** Children's Resource. Briefly explain learning focus across the resource: God wants us to care about other people and work together so there is fairness for everyone.



**Memory Verse – Micah 6:8 (PPT slide 2)**  
"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?"

*This verse has been chosen as a scaffold to structure learning across the 4 sessions. Each session we use same memory verse but explore a different element. In session 1 the focus is on He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you*

To help the children begin to learn the memory verse, get them up on their feet. As they say the verse aloud, change position when there is a comma (standing/sitting/squatting). You can build on this by adding actions such as pointing up when saying 'he/Lord/God'; point at themselves when saying 'you/your'.



**Discuss: How do you learn a new skill? (PPT slide 3)**  
Explore ideas such as following instructions from an adult; 'how to' guide; rules) To help us follow God we have been given an expert guide in the life of Jesus AND 2 simple rules (**Mark 12:29-31** abridged verse on **slide 4**)



**Discuss: What do these verses tell us about how God wants us to behave?** Love God with our whole life not just when we are in church AND love other people – draw out connection between this and that we need to care when other people are not treated fairly.

Plant the idea that 'fairness' is sometimes messy and difficult but it's a really important part of living for God in the world. The challenges around issues of fairness and justice will be explored in future sessions.



**Craft: Faith Flower (PPT slide 5)** Adapted from *PaperScissorsCraft47*

Use this craft to illustrate how following these 2 'simple rules' will help our faith to grow.



**Materials:** **workbook page 1-2;** scissors; colouring pencils/pens  
**Instructions:**

- ★ Colour both the seed-to flower strip and the soil/sky circle.
- ★ Cut out the seed-to-flower strip and cut across the line in the soil.
- ★ As children make their faith flowers, **discuss:** how to help our faith grow. Healthy faith and trust in God makes a difference to everything we do. While you won't use the vocabulary of 'fake faith' with this age group, this is where the idea of strong, deep, healthy faith comes in - fairness and care for other people is at the heart of our relationship with God.



**Film 1 (6 minutes)** : Being part of the global church helps us see things in different ways. Watch the ways in which our partners live out real, rich faith in everyday life and how the Church is at the centre of community. *Warning: there is reference to a health clinic burning down and how children with SEN are negatively viewed in other places.*

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw.



**Game: Lightning Lines (PPT slide 6)** adapted from *childrensministry.com*

Use game to illustrate that following God means being attentive to what God wants. Connect back to Micah verse – He has told you what is good; and what does the Lord require of you

**Instructions:**

- ★ Divide group into pairs. Stand back-to-back.
- ★ Leader calls out a direction about how to line up in pairs then counts to three.
- ★ On "three," turn and follow directions, quick like lightning.
- ★ **Example formations:** pairs "Stand from left to right, shortest to tallest," ; make groups of three, then "stand oldest to youngest." Continue having kids form larger groups with each round. Also, name new ways to line up each time such as by hair length, age by birthday, shirt colours in rainbow order, or sitting with shortest to longest hair.



**Game: Touch the Floor (PPT slide 7)** adapted from *childrensministry.com*

A big part of doing what God wants is working together for all people, just like CMSI's partners who show God's love through their actions. This game reinforces the importance of working together as we follow God.

**Instructions:**

- ★ Get into groups of 3 (preferably mixed age)
- ★ Call out the number seven.
- ★ The trio will need to have exactly that many points of contact with the floor.
- ★ After the groups have figured out how to have seven points of contact with the floor - the total for their trio - pause for discussion.
- ★ Ask: **How did your team work together?**
- ★ Continue by calling out these numbers: 9, 12, 6, 3, 4, 11, 8, 5, 10

In the following weeks we will explore what fairness looks like: the difficulties AND the amazing beauty of God's fairness for all



**Round Up:** Ask the children what things they have learned from today's lesson. Use **workbooks page 3** to draw a picture recapping the key elements of the lesson – as Christians we must Love God and love our neighbour – this will have a big impact on how we live our lives.



**Prayer (PPT slide 8)**

Finish the session with the suggested prayer in their **workbooks on page 3.**

## Key teaching point + Fairness and God's generosity

\* God's generosity experienced by and visible in the global church

Session 2  
Yellow

**B4** **BEFORE THE SESSION** read **teaching notes appendix 2** and place something high up on the board or a shelf.

**Worksheet:** Use **workbook page 4** and **PPT slide 2** to consider how equality and fairness are not the same thing.

**Group time:** Discuss playing games in teams:  
● What does it feel like to be left out/last one picked?  
● What if not being picked meant more than feeling sad/left out?  
Explore the implications if you depended on being picked for food/pay for your clothes/home.

**Game: Forward & Reverse** (PPT slide 3) adapted from *childrensministry.com*  
Use this game to help children understand that every person matters in God's family.  
**Instructions:**  
★ Children form teams of five and stand in lines, holding each other's waists.  
★ On "GO," teams will run randomly around the room, following directions. After 30 seconds, shout stop.  
★ Last person is 'frozen' – disconnect and stay static.  
★ Teams regroup and run again – repeat until just team leaders are running.  
★ Reverse process and rejoin.  
★ Play several times.  
Discuss what was it like to be last in this game? What was it like to be first? Explain who you think was most important.  
★ Use to set up Matthew 20:16 *last will be first*

**Story Time:** (PPT slide 4)  
**Matthew 20:1-16** *The Workers in the Vineyard*  
Jesus told lots of stories to help us learn about God's character / God's way as different from the world's – not the way it's supposed to be. Anticipate some of the ways that we might not like God's way at a glance... As you read / watch the story make it clear that the owner of the vineyard is God – emphasise that this is the kingdom of heaven and tell them to look out for what the story tells us about what God is like.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOW1C6Wzv50> (2 minutes) (PPT slide 4)

**Discuss** how generous God is - everyone was given the full day's pay! No one was left out. No one went home without enough for their family. Isn't God very, very generous, giving more than he needed to give?

After your discussion, reinforce that God shows us what real kindness/fairness/generosity looks like.

**Film 2** (5.5 minutes) : God's generosity is a beautiful thing. Discuss how the global church helps us see God's generosity. Discuss how we see God's generosity in our own contexts. *Warning: there is reference to the attempted killing of one of our partners.*

**Game: Apples and Oranges** (PPT slide 5) adapted from *childrensministry.com*  
Use this game to reinforce that everyone is important in God's family.  
**Materials:** 1 apple; 1 orange  
**Instructions:**  
★ Form a circle; pass an apple to the right around the circle. Another child will pass an orange to the left around the circle.  
★ The key to this game is that kids can't pass the fruit with their hands: use their feet, elbows, or knees to pass the fruit.

★ If someone drops the fruit or it touches the ground, the child must close his eyes to continue playing.

★ Play continues until only one person with his or her eyes open remains.

### Discuss

★ what was easy or difficult about the game?  
★ what it was like to play with their eyes closed and how did that affect the game?  
★ make the connection between this game and God's family. Celebrate everyone's contributions and emphasise everyone's special role in God's family.

**Craft** – Prayer Jar. (PPT slide 6) Use this as a visual aid to reinforce that we all are equally important in the eyes of God. God is generous to every single person, no matter what.

**Materials:** small, clear jars (with lids); a series of dried foods eg pulses/ lentils/ beans/ peas/ maize/ barley/ corn/ pasta/ cereals/ nuts/ flour/ sugar; scissors; elastic band or string; hole punch; **page 5 of workbooks.**

### Instructions:

★ Show the **children slide 6** and **discuss** how each layer is the same size. This represents God's love. As you create the layers, **discuss** how this is a wonderfully affirming thing for all of us.  
★ Once you have finished, cut out the label, hole punch and attach to the neck of the jar with string/elastic band. Encourage the children to use this as a prayer aid, to thank God for God's love and generosity and to help us see other people from God's perspective and share love and kindness to everyone.

Connect with Micah memory verse element **walk humbly with**

**Memory Verse – Micah 6:8** (PPT slide 7)  
**"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?"**

- Walking with God is another way of saying follow Jesus/do what Jesus does.
- To walk humbly means we follow God because God knows best.
- We are always learning what God's way is so we must follow God's teaching.
- The Bible teaches us to be generous and kind and to do what God wants us to do.

**Round up:** Ask the children what things they have learned from today's session. You may want to give them some plain paper to draw a picture. Recap together the key elements of the lesson – equal and fair are not the same thing; God is a generous God who loves us all equally; we should follow God's example and be generous to everyone "walk humbly". You may like to wrap up the lesson with the following questions:

- What did you learn from the Bible today?
- What did you learn from the DVD film today?
- What can we share with our friends and family?

**Prayer** (PPT slide 8)  
Finish the session with the suggested prayer in their **workbooks page 5.**

## Key teaching point + Fairness and mere charity

\* Partnership and walking together – how this works in practice



**Group Time:** (PPT slide 2) does anyone know the word 'charity' – discuss the difference between giving someone your old stuff/things you don't want and real sharing. Talk through some of the good things about giving other people money but encourage children to see that we need to do more than that.

**Recap:** Reminder of learning from previous weeks:  
1 active and living faithful following AND  
2 God's generosity



**Memory Verse – Micah 6:8** (PPT slide 3)

"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?"

To help the children learn the memory verse, put each word on a separate piece of paper and peg it to a line or place on the floor. Say together, taking away a few words each time.

The element that is being unpacked this week, 'do justice, love kindness', will help us see what an active, generous living faith looks like in practice; active not passive; requirement not an option.



**Discuss: What does real kindness look like?**

Explore together ways that the children can express kindness to others in their home and school contexts.



**Discuss: What does God's fairness look like?**

Refresh understanding of God's generosity through analogy of a sports race (PPT slide 4 / workbook page 6) - all start in the same place but this is clearly unfair - why? Steer discussion towards unequal access to opportunities making 'equality' insufficient OR play Wacky Races.



**Game: Wacky Races**

This simple activity reinforces discussion from previous session around fairness – equal isn't the same as fair.

**Materials:** obstacles for an obstacle course

**Instructions:**

- ★ Set up an obstacle course.
- ★ Separate into 2 teams where there is clear difference in contenders – eg. one team with 2 people and the other with 5; one group has all the tall/sporty/older children; pit the tallest against the smallest or strongest/weakest.
- ★ Make sure they are 'equal' by starting at exactly the same time/same set up.



**Discuss** what the problem is – surely it's fair because everyone is starting in the same place?

Explore together how to make the race fairer – emphasise the difficulty in doing this – not a simple answer – requires negotiation, considering lots of things that might not be immediately visible.



**Discuss** how the Bible helps us see what kindness and real fairness look like in practice. **Proverbs 31:9** (PPT slide 5) "Stand up for the rights of those who are suffering and in need"

(PPT slide 6) **What might this look like** in our daily lives in the playground/ school? How can we 'play fair' in our own lives'?

**What might this look like** in our communities/ country/ world? This is about 'fair play' - having things in place that mean people are given a fairer chance.



**Film 3 (5.5 minutes)** : This film shows some of CMSI's partnerships and the ways in which we can walk together – how this works in practice – helps us learn how to do this better too.



**Craft:** praying hands activity

**Materials:** see PPT slide 7 scissors, blank paper/card, pens/pencils

**Instructions:**

- ★ trace hands on card
- ★ cut out (ensure connected so fold together as 'praying hands')
- ★ on one palm write 'do justice' inside a heart on the other 'love one another'



**Fundraising Focus:** Local Mission Partners – connecting with and supporting CMSI's LMPs allows you to share with the global church and show loving kindness. We currently support 4 LMPs (PPT slides 8-12). These are individuals who are living and working in their local communities alongside CMSI and CMSAfrica or AsiaCMS.

As part of awareness raising and as a practical means of challenging unfairness, you may wish to consider encouraging your church community to partner with ANM, a local partner of CMSI in Belfast. If you are interested in exploring this further, contact the office on 028 9077 5020 / 01 497 0931 or email our personnel manager, Gillian Maganda: [personnel@cmsireland.org](mailto:personnel@cmsireland.org)



**Round up:** God's fairness is NOT about simple 'charity' (especially if that's giving our old stuff away) but instead using our lives to help change people's minds and behaviour.



Use prayer hands to emphasise that together we can do justice and love one another – pray together the prayer on **workbook page 6/ PPT slide 13.**



## Key teaching point + Fair play for all

\* Examples of CMSI partners actively pursuing justice for all

Session 4  
Yellow



**Group Time:** Recap Memory Verse **Micah 6: 8** (PPT slide 2) "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?" AND 3 areas of focus from wks 1-3 (fake faith; God's generosity; mere charity)

This week – **fairness for all** – difficult but required **Proverbs 21: 15** (PPT slide 3) an important part of being a Christian – link to first week and authentic faith



**Film 4 (5.5 minutes)** : Examples of CMSI partners actively pursuing justice for all. *Warning: there is reference to the way in which people with physical disabilities are sometimes viewed in other places.*



**Activity: Sweetie share** (PPT slide 4)

**Materials:** a range of sweets/buns that can be cut up/ shared; plates; a way to 'cut' sweets.

- Put children into pairs
- Give them treats and ask them to share them – how could they do this fairly?
- Encourage them to opt for 1 person cuts/divides and the other chooses.
- Discuss why this is a good model for fairness: both involved in activity of fairness/sharing – not a one way thing/hierarchy/one person in control.



(PPT slide 5) Recap 'play fair' and 'fair play' ideas from last session.

(PPT slide 6) Explain that grownups from different countries are trying to work together to make the world a fairer place for everyone. They have decided on different things to work on but this is difficult because it means that we need to think about each other and sometimes we can't do what we want. BUT it's important to work for 'Fair Play' for everyone and not just look after ourselves.



**Game 1 : One Animal, Many Parts** (PPT slide 7) adapted from *childrensministry.com*

Use this game to show children the purpose of working together.

**Instructions:**

- ★ Form equal-size teams.
- ★ Decide on an animal together.
- ★ Work together to form that animal, each person taking on different body parts.
- ★ As soon as the group has completely formed the animal, together make that animal's sound.
- ★ Teams should guess each other's animals.
- ★ Observe the animals each group has made, pointing out the animal's body parts you can identify.

**Ask:**

- In what ways did your team work well?
- What things did your team struggle with?
- Why?
- What do you think it takes to make a strong body?



**Read aloud 1 Corinthians 12:14-20** (PPT slides 8-9), and then invite children to talk about the roles that they can play in Jesus' family. They may be little but they are very important! Eyes are little compared to legs but we couldn't see without them! They can show love and kindness to each other by including everyone in their games. They can show love and kindness to older people. Encourage them to see that their joy and presence brings real happiness to others.

**Say:** We all work together as important parts of Jesus' family. The family wouldn't be complete without them.

just like the body can't do everything it should be able to do without eyes.

OR



**Game 2: Handy Dandy** (PPT slide 10) adapted from *childrensministry.com*

Use this game to talk about staying connected to God.

**Instructions:**

- ★ Divide group into teams (equal numbers across teams).
- ★ All stand on one side of the space (make space challenging to navigate – obstacles/length etc).
- ★ Each team's goal is to get everyone to the finish line with each person walking heel-toe-heel-toe one (make distance/obstacles difficult)
- ★ Each team will have a helper called "Handy Dandy" – if team members choose to hold their Handy Dandy's right hand, they can walk quickly or even run together.
- ★ The Handy Dandy will help only one person at a time and can run back and forth to get new players after he or she has helped one child to the finish line.



**Discuss** how Handy Dandy helps us see that God's way is better than ours.



**Art competition:** (PPT slide 11) Work together to make a picture from scrap materials – something that helps visualise 'fair play for all'. As the children work together, reinforce the idea that up we need to have a bigger perspective to understand how God's generosity and fairness should look. Close up, the project will look like lots of rubbish but from a distance we can see the beauty and richness of the whole.

**Take 2 photographs** - one close up and then one that gives the fullest perspective. Add a caption.

Please submit all entries to [info@cmsireland.org](mailto:info@cmsireland.org) by Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025. The winning entry for this year's 'Fair Play' teaching resource will be shared online and in our summer snippets publication.



**Round Up:** Ask the children what things they have learned from today's lesson. Use **workbooks page 7** to draw a picture recapping the key elements of each of the 4 sessions lesson – living for God everyday; God's big heart; more than just charity; fair play for all.

**Prayer** (PPT slide 12) and **workbook page 7**



### Session 1

Mark 12:29-31 – <sup>29</sup>“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup>Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup>The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

### Session 2

Matthew 20:1-16 *The Workers in the Vineyard* – <sup>1</sup>“The Kingdom of heaven is like this. Once there was a man who went out early in the morning to hire some men to work in his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>He **agreed to pay them the regular wage**, a silver coin a day, and sent them to work in his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>He went out again to the marketplace at nine o'clock and saw some men standing there doing nothing, <sup>4</sup>so he told them, ‘You also go and work in the vineyard, and **I will pay you a fair wage.**’ <sup>5</sup>So they went. Then at twelve o'clock and again at three o'clock he **did the same thing.** <sup>6</sup>It was nearly five o'clock when he went to the marketplace and saw some other men still standing there. ‘Why are you wasting the whole day here doing nothing?’ he asked them. <sup>7</sup>‘No one hired us,’ they answered. ‘Well, then, you go and work in the vineyard,’ he told them.

<sup>8</sup>“When evening came, the owner told his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with those who were hired last and ending with those who were hired first.’ <sup>9</sup>The men who had begun to work at five o'clock were paid a silver coin each. <sup>10</sup>So when the men who were the first to be hired came to be paid, they thought they would get more; but they too were given a silver coin each. <sup>11</sup>They took their money and started grumbling against the employer. <sup>12</sup>‘These men who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘while we put up with a whole day's work in the hot sun—yet you paid them the same as you paid us!’ <sup>13</sup>‘Listen, friend,’ the owner answered one of them, ‘I have not cheated you. After all, you agreed to do a day's work for one silver coin. <sup>14</sup>Now take your pay and go home. I want to give this man who was hired last as much as I gave you. <sup>15</sup>Don't I have the right to do as I wish with my own money? Or are you jealous because I am generous?’”

<sup>16</sup>And Jesus concluded, “So those who are last will be first, and those who are first will be last.”

### Session 3

Proverbs 31:9 – Open your mouth. Be right and fair in what you decide. **Stand up** for the rights of those who are suffering and in need.

### Session 4

Proverbs 21: 15 – When what is right and fair is done, it is a joy for those who are right with God. But it fills the sinful with fear.

1 Corinthians 12:14-20 – For the body itself is not made up of only one part, but of many parts. If the foot were to say, “Because I am not a hand, I don't belong to the body,” that would not keep it from being a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, “Because I am not an eye, I don't belong to the body,” that would not keep it from being a part of the body. If the whole body were just an eye, how could it hear? And if it were only an ear, how could it smell? As it is, however, God put every different part in the body just as he wanted it to be. There would not be a body if it were all only one part! As it is, there are many parts but one body.



## Teaching Notes

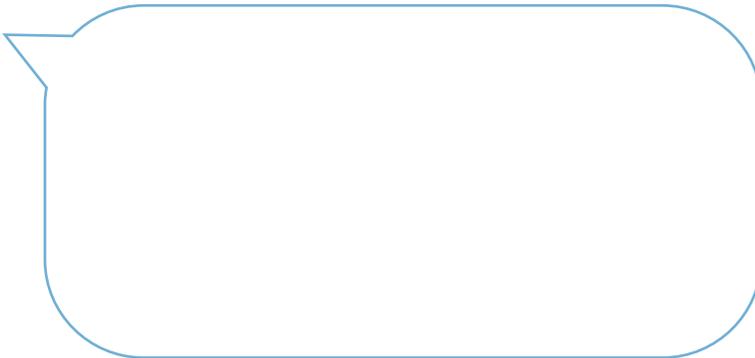
# Equality and Fairness

(adapted from [betterkids.education](http://betterkids.education) "That's not fair" blog post)

**Before the session** place something high up on the board or a shelf.

At the start of the session call on two children to reach for it; specifically call on a **taller** and **smaller** volunteer. When the taller child reaches for the object, they'll get it but when the smaller child makes the attempt, the object will be just out of their reach.

Ask the children for ideas :



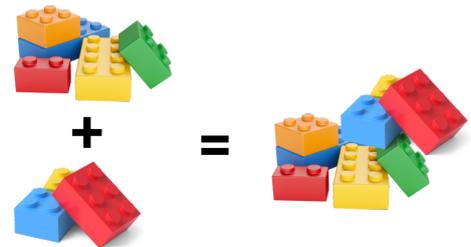
## Bingo

Use this to begin a **discussion** on fair vs equal.



eg: The two children cannot have equal treatment, because that truly isn't fair or even necessary. The taller child already has an advantage. It's evident to everyone that they don't need a stool or someone to help them reach. The other child, however, requires some help (accommodation) to have an *equal chance* (opportunity) at success.

**Equality has to do with sameness**, just like in math. An equal sign tells us that both sides of the sum are exactly the same ( $3 + 2 = 5$ ).



Fair is different. **Fair means everyone gets what they need**. Sometimes people will have different needs because we are unique individuals.

For example:

- Some children wear glasses and some don't. That's not equal, but it's fair because not everyone needs glasses to see and learn best.
- Some children may receive a different lunch in school because they have food allergies. That's not equal, but it's fair. It's what that child needs to be healthy and safe.

Get children to work through [workbook page 4](#) to reinforce the difference between equality and fairness.