



Social Justice Resources for Primary Students

Social justice is not some kind of optional extra for Catholics. We are all called to a loving relationship with God, which as Jesus taught is demonstrated by care for the most vulnerable in society.

The following resources are provided to help in your important work – teaching social justice to today’s children.

Scripture

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
Because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To let the oppressed go free,
To proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour. (Luke 4: 18 – 19)*

Further Scripture Passages highlighting social justice:

Topic	Scripture	Break Through! Page Reference
God demands justice for the poor	Psalms 82: 2-4	Page 848
Righteous Ruler	Psalms 72: 1-2, 12-14	Page 39
God’s concern for the poor	Psalms 146: 4-9	Page 896
God’s concern for justice on the earth	Isaiah 42: 1, 6-7	Page 1082
God’s concern for the poor and distressed	Isaiah 1: 11, 16-17	Pages 1034-1035
The Holiness code in the book of Leviticus insists ‘love thy neighbour as yourself’	Leviticus 19: 18b	Page 170
Caring for the poor	Refer	Pages 338, 473, 816, 925, 1335, 1336, 1435, 1607, 1815
Jesus and Social Justice	Matthew 25: 31-46	Page 1445
Jesus and Social Justice	Luke 16: 19-24	Page 1533

Prayer

*Jesus, when you lived on earth
you showed special love for children.
Please take care of all the children of the world.
Give them safe places to live,
and loving people to take care of them.
Shield them from all harm to body and soul.
protect those who live in lands
where there is war, not enough food and water,
not enough doctors and nurses.
Please put joy into the hearts of all children
and give them good reason to laugh.
Jesus, let the children of the world come to you,
to be safe and happy.
Thank you, Jesus!*

St Pauls



Did you know?

The Lord's Prayer is a prayer about justice.

Look at the first word: OUR. Not MY Father, but OUR Father. We are all children of the same Father in Heaven. We pray for OUR daily bread. We are praying for our share of resources. The word again is OUR. We are asking that there be enough for all.

Being human means that we have choices.

God gave us the freedom to make choices in our lives. We can choose to be kind to people or choose not to be. The choices you make will ripple out like a rock thrown into water.

- Do we always make good choices?
- Why do we sometimes find it hard to make choices that suit other people more than ourselves?
- Sometimes our choices might hurt the environment. Are the things we want worth the damage to the God's earth?

The Catholic Church and Social Justice

The Catholic Church—with its many missionaries—is one of the largest groups to provide medical care to people all over the world.

Jesus and Social Justice

Jesus was a wonderful teacher. He told parables rather than give direct instructions.

- What is a parable?
- Parables that showed Jesus was interested in Social Justice
 - The parable of the Lost Sheep
 - The parable of the Good Samaritan
 - The parable of the Mustard Seed

Saints demonstrate how to love one another

- St Francis of Assisi (1181–1226) cared for the poor and sick
- St Mary MacKillop (1842–1909) founded the Sisters of St Joseph and worked for the rural poor in Australia.

What is injustice?

Are there examples of injustice in:

- the school ground?
- in the family?
- in the world?

How can we follow Jesus and love one another?

- love your enemies
- turn the other cheek
- be open to people – 'walk around in their shoes'.

Further Reading

Jesus and Justice - 9781921946943

Part of the Wonderings Big Book series, *Jesus and Justice* describes and illustrates social justice in an age appropriate way. Wondering about justice/injustice, illustrating with parables and every day situations, *Jesus and Justice* encourages learning by means of wonderings.....I wonder what would happen if everyone just looked after themselves? I wonder why we should take the time to include those who are 'outcast'? The book takes the class on a journey towards living like Jesus and following His path.

Lesson plans

See next page



Name: _____ Date: _____

Following the Path of Jesus

Work with a group of 5 students. Work together to create a freeze-frame that shows what living like Jesus looks like. Once you have decided on a freeze-frame take a photo or create a drawing.

Some examples for your freeze-frame/drawing

- forgiving others
- being peaceful
- putting others first and yourself last
- treating others the way you want to be treated
- loving one another

Write a short paragraph that explains the freeze-frame image or drawing and how it relates to following Jesus.

Name: _____ Date: _____

A New Way of Seeing Things

Use the words in the box below to complete the following passage:

everyone	Kingdom	think	Mustard
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Jesus told parables as way of helping them to _____ about their life and how they were living. The Parable of the _____ Seed is about the _____ of God. Jesus uses the mustard seed to pass on the message that the Kingdom of God is big enough for _____.

PLANT A SEED

As a class, plant a seed and take the time to nurture it. As you care for it, watch how it grows. Take some photos of the seed as it develops. Once you have 3 different photos, take the time to write a short description of what you see in each photo.

What changes do you notice? How are these changes similar to the Mustard Seed parable?

OR

Write your own version of the Parable of the Mustard Seed based on the seed you have planted as a class