

CODNOR'S CHRISTIAN VALUES



JUSTICE

Talk about Justice

In school, children will be learning about our core Christian Value of **justice** in collective worship and in our classrooms. When thinking about 'justice', some people think first about giving wrongdoers the punishment they deserve. However, that would be a one-sided picture of justice. Justice also means giving all people - particularly the poor and oppressed - what it is right and fair for them to have: life, health, freedom and dignity.

Here are some questions to explore that theme you could discuss at home:

Q: Why is justice important?

Q: What would happen if we didn't uphold values of justice?

Q: Are there any rules that you think are unjust [or unfair?]

Q: What family rules are important to you?



Research it together

Who said the following quote?

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Read about Justice

The Story of Jonah

Some folk always seem to be arguing or moaning and groaning. Sometimes they moan about the weather, sometimes they moan about their family, and sometimes they just moan. In fact, they are so busy moaning about EVERYTHING that they forget to be thankful for ANYTHING. Jonah was just like that! He moaned all the time. So when God asked him to go to Ninevah and tell the people there that he was angry about their stealing, lying, fighting and their wicked ways, of course Jonah moaned and groaned. "Not Ninevah, please! Anywhere but Ninevah! We have never got on with that nasty bunch. Please Lord, send someone else." And just in case God asked him again Jonah, quick as his legs could carry him, ran to the dock and asked the captain of the nearest boat to take him to the furthest place from Ninevah. The nearest boat was the Jolly Dragon and her captain was called Wise Captain Silas. The Jolly Dragon set sail on a calm sea under a clear blue sky but within a day found herself caught up in a fierce and frightening storm. Captain Silas knew immediately that something was not right. He went to find his passenger, who, surprise, surprise, was below deck moaning to one of the sailors. "It's my fault," groaned Jonah. "Throw me into the sea and the storm will blow over." Wise Captain Silas knew Jonah was right and so to save his ship and all the crew, gave orders to toss Jonah overboard that minute. A huge fish saw Jonah sinking slowly to the bottom of the sea, and he opened his great mouth wide, and swallowed him whole! Jonah had only just enough time to recover from the shock when he found himself shooting through the air and onto a beach very near to Ninevah. The great fish had spat him out and swum away. Even Jonah knew now that there was no way out. He picked himself up, shook off the seaweed and walked slowly into the centre of the city. There he did what God had told him at the start and explained to the people of Ninevah that God was sad about their unjust behaviour and how he wanted them to change their ways. To Jonah's amazement, that's exactly what they did. They fasted, they prayed for God's forgiveness and even thanked him for sending Jonah.

Question it:

Why might a set of scales be a symbol of justice?



Justice Hall of Fame

Lady Justice

Lady Justice is one of the most famous landmarks in London. It is a bronze statue that stands on the domed roof of the Old Bailey. This building houses the central criminal courts where people who are accused of breaking the law are tried by a judge and jury to find out if they are 'guilty' and should be punished or 'not guilty' and can go free. Lady Justice was designed to be a symbol of justice: in her left hand she carries the scales of truth and fairness and in her right hand a double edged sword representing the power of reason and justice. Lady Justice is based on the Greek goddess Themis - honoured as clear-sighted - and the Roman goddess Justitia - honoured as representing the virtue of justice.

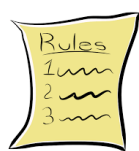
She is blindfolded because justice is unbiased and should not be based on a person's appearance or other outside influences.



Create it together

Making a new law

New laws are passed every year by the government. Ask each member of the family to think of a law which they think the government should pass. Talk about your ideas and how your new law would make a difference. Design a poster with these new laws on and bring it into school to show your class.



Colour me in:



Bible verses



- **Isaiah 1:17** "Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow."
- **Psalms 103:6** "The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed."
- **Micah 6:8** "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."
- **Matthew 5:6** "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."
- **Leviticus 19:15** "Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to

Pray together

Dear God,

We come before you today with hearts filled with gratitude for your love and guidance. We thank you for being a God of justice, who cares deeply for what is right and fair. Help us, Lord, to understand and live out the true meaning of justice in our daily lives.

We pray for those who are treated unfairly and those who face difficult situations. May they find comfort in knowing that you are a God who sees and cares for them. Grant them strength and courage to persevere through challenges, knowing that you are with them.

Lord, help us to be agents of justice in our own small ways. We pray for a world where justice flows like a mighty river, where every person is treated with dignity and equality. We trust in your promise that one day, you will make all things right.

Amen.

