

## **Junior Church Resources for Homeless Sunday 2022**

**Related Bible reading: Luke 17:11-19**

### **Gathering and praying together**

Loving God – we thank you for bringing us together today; we thank you for our families and friends and for all who care for us when we are ill. Help us to be kind and caring to others, especially those people who have very little, or who have no home, and who may be ill. Help us listen to your word today and hear you in our hearts. Amen

**Reading** – read the Gospel passage from the Bible of your choice

### **Questions for sharing and talking about**

What does Jesus do in this story that other people have not done?

What makes us ignore some people?

What does the last man who comes back teach us to do?

For older children: Leprosy is still a health concern in the world, but in the UK what are the other problems people face that mean they can't join in?

For older children: People can find themselves with nowhere to live, and end up with no roof over their head, or end up in crowded, unsafe, and run-down housing. They may have to move on at any time. How does this prevent them taking part in things everyone else can do?

### **Activity 1**

By giving thanks each day for what we have, our gratitude increases, and our hearts may be opened to seeing the needs of others. What are we most grateful for?

### **Giving thanks, and making space for others**

You will need: plenty of A4 paper (colours or white), pens, assorted craft sparkly items, stickers, glue and scissors.

- A simple activity to give God thanks for all that we have and what is most precious to us.
- Cut out in advance, or for older children ask them to cut out, a large heart shape from A4 paper.
- Invite them to think of all the things they are most grateful for, and draw/stick/colour these things inside the heart on one side.
- Once they have done this, invite them to draw or write about the things and people this makes them think of on the other side of the heart. You might like to ask: what would you like to share with others, and why? What do other people go without, and

what would you like them to have? Particularly, how might homelessness (including inadequate housing) prevent them enjoying these things?

- The hearts can be placed together on the table as you pray, and then taken away by each young person as a reminder.

## **Activity 2**

When we only see part of ourselves and other people, we don't really see them at all. What makes us the full human beings whom Jesus loves fully?

### **Think about what matters the most - credit: Roots [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com)**

You will need: A5 (or folded A4) plain paper, A5 tracing paper, staples, thick black pens, coloured felt-tip pens.

- In advance, make a booklet for each child from four sheets of A5 tracing paper on top of one plain sheet, stapled at the edges so the pages can be turned.
- Ask the children to draw a simple body outline on the bottom, plain sheet using a thick black pen. NB: It represents them!
- Next ask them to turn over the first sheet of tracing paper and, using coloured pens, draw features such as hair, eyes, mouth, nose, ears, clothes, jewellery. On the next sheet, ask them to draw items to represent skills or hobbies. On the next sheet, draw their family. On the final sheet, write words to describe them.
- Talk about how these things are just part of who we are. Ask everyone to turn back to the first page and draw a heart inside their body outline. Jesus is most interested in our heart – that is, if we show love to him and to others.

## **Prayer**

We pray for all suffering from homelessness,  
For those who are alone, and for those who are living in cramped and crowded conditions;  
Give courage to those who feel they struggle on without help  
And hope to those who despair of things becoming better.

As we see Jesus unafraid to reach out to people who have been ignored,  
Make us courageous and open-hearted people  
So that we may see the whole person and offer them dignity and care,  
And through our small steps, help bring alive your Kingdom on earth.

## **Thoughts to take away**

Who are the people I don't often notice?

What small steps of care might I take this week to help someone who faces difficulty with housing?

**Finding out:** what charities or projects are running in my area to help people who need better housing, and how can we offer them support?

**Closing prayer**

Almighty God

Thank you for helping us share with others

Thank you for helping us understand others

For those who have very little, give them what they need

For those who need shelter, give them comfort

For ourselves, give us caring hearts and kind actions,

As Jesus showed us,

**Amen**