**Justice Collective Worship – Teacher guidance**

**Gathering**

**Slide 1**

Play Bruno Mars *Count on Me,* as the children enter the hall (link on first slide).

[Bruno Mars - Count on Me (Official Lyric Video) - Bing video](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=count+ion+me+bruno+mars&view=detail&mid=0195141C9641F41B432E0195141C9641F41B432E&FORM=VIRE0&ru=%2fsearch%3fq%3dcount%2bion%2bme%2bbruno%2bmars%26cvid%3d24e5ca037ba34d9390715870b685dd63%26aqs%3dedge.0.69i59i450l8.207581j0j4%26FORM%3dANAB01%26PC%3dHCTS)

Start the worship by lighting a candle and following the school’s usual gathering routine.

**Engaging**

**Slide 2**

‘It’s not fair!’ When have children heard these words or used them themselves? Ask them to share ideas with a partner and take a few suggestions.

Why do we hear these words so often? Is it because life is unfair for many people? Or do people just like to complain?! Or are we wired with a strong sense of right and wrong?

Christians believe that we are made in the image of God. This doesn’t mean that we look like God, but that we can be loving and generous and unselfish because that’s what God is like. Sometimes God’s image in us gets spoiled and we can be greedy or unkind, but basically people are good because God is good. We have a sense of right and wrong because God does too.

**Slide 3**

Our Collective worship this week is going to look at the theme of Justice. What do the children think ‘Justice’ means? Why do people often use a pair of scales as a symbol of justice? If you have an old-fashioned set of balance scales, you can demonstrate getting the two sides to balance. This represents everyone being treated equally, rather than favouring one person or group.

**Slide 4**

Jesus told a parable (a story with a meaning) about a judge who divided people into two groups, like a shepherd separating the sheep and the goats in their flock. Lots of people in Jesus’ time were farmers or shepherds and they would have been used to doing this, because sheep and goats looked quite similar, but had different needs and ate different kinds of food, so he was using language that his listeners would have understood.

In Jesus’ story, the judge separated the sheep and goats because he was pleased with the sheep and was going to reward them, but not the goats. When the crowd asked Jesus about this, he explained that the ‘sheep’ had helped other people – they had given food to people who were hungry and had welcomed strangers. They had looked after those who were sick and visited people in prison. Because of this, the judge (or God) was pleased with them and would reward them. The ‘goats’ hadn’t done any of these things.

You can find this story in [Matthew 26:31 – 46.](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2025:%2031-46&version=MSG) There is a simple version in the Lion Storyteller Book of Parables.

What does this story tell us about God’s ideas of what is fair or just?

**Responding**

**Slide 5**

Show some, or all, of the next slides and ask the children:

If God wants us to look after other people, as in the story of the sheep and goats, what would be the right thing to do in these situations?

(Not all the scenarios are clearcut cases!)

E.g. One of your friends falls over and hurts themselves.

**Slide 6**

A new child arrives in your class.

**Slide 7**

Two pupils have an argument in the playground.

**Slide 8**

Some families don’t have enough food.

**Slide 9**

Some families have to leave their countries because of war or to find a better future.

**Slide 10**

People in some countries don’t have access to the COVID Vaccination.

What simple things could we do to try to make our school (or our community, or the world) a fairer place?

**Slide 11.**

Invite the children to join in with the following prayer, by saying Amen (*I agree)* at the end if they’d like to.

Dear God,

Thank you that you want things to be fair in this world.

Help us to treat other people fairly, at school, in our community and in the wider world.

Please help us to know the right thing to do, when situations are complicated.

Amen.

**Sending**

**Slide 12**

Remind the children of the parable of the sheep and the goats. The judge was pleased with the ‘sheep’ because they looked after other people.

How will the story change the way you act today?

What could you do to make sure that someone else is treated fairly?

Play *Count on Me* again as the children leave.