**The Christian Value of Justice**

**Key Stage 2 – Reflection 1**

This reflection explores the value of justice. It builds on the whole school worship on the story of the sheep and the goats, and explores ideas about treating people fairly and not discriminating against them because of their gender or race or for any other reason.

*You will need the associated PowerPoint.*

**Slide 1:** The slide includes a link to Bruno Mars, *Count on Me,* if you would like to use this as the children settle for worship.

**Slide 2:** Begin by recapping the idea of justice and that the scales remind us to treat everybody equally. The story of the sheep and goats (explored in whole-school worship) shows us how important it is to treat other people fairly, even if they look different from us or come from another country or have different ideas.

**Slide 3:** Christians believe that God made each one of us, and that he made us in his image. This doesn’t mean that we look like God, but that we share the same qualities he has, of being kind, loving and believing in fairness or justice. Sometimes God’s image in us gets spoiled, so that we are unkind or unfair, but basically people are good and fair, because God is good and fair.

Christians also believe that everyone is made in God’s image, so everyone should be treated the same, whether they’re boys or girls, young or old, black or brown or white, able or disabled….

Today’s worship is about someone who was treated unfairly because she looked different from other children in her school.

**Slide 4:** Ask the children to draw their hair.

How would they feel if they were treated differently, or even sent home from school because of the way their hair grew, even if they spent ages styling it and it was really neat?

**Slide 5:**  Explain that they are going to hear a story about someone who was treated unfairly because of the way she looked. Ask the children to listen carefully and tell you what was unjust about Ruby’s story.

Ruby Williams was often sent home from her school in London, because her teachers said her hair was too big and stopped the other children seeing the board. In the second picture, her hair is gelled into a ponytail, but she would have to get up really early, because this took her an extra half an hour before school to style it.

**Slide 6:** She tried using straightening creams, or having braids, but the treatments were expensive, or took a long time, or even gave her bald patches.

In the end, after several years of getting into trouble for her hair, or being sent home from school, she was given £8 500 to make up for the stress and anxiety this caused her.

Today Ruby is studying at college and is campaigning for justice for other children who are discriminated against because of their hair. She says it’s not her fault that her hair grows out sideways rather than growing down straight and that other children at her school were allowed to wear their hair as long as they wanted.

*You can read more about Ruby’s story on* [*CBBC Newsround story here,*](https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51444437) *or click on the video icon on slide 5 to watch a* [*BBC news video*](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-45521094) *of Ruby telling her story.*

*Was it fair that Ruby was sent home from school? Was she discriminated against?*

*Some people say that she should just have cut her hair shorter and that it’s not fair that she was paid compensation. A barrister called her a stroppy teenager. What do you think?*

*What would you have done if you were Ruby? If you were the school? Why?*

*If everyone is made in God’s image and should be treated equally, how should Ruby have been treated?*

*If we’re made in God’s image and so have God’s qualities of being fair and loving, how should we treat other people?*

**Slide 7:**

**Closing Prayer**

*Invite the children to say Amen at the end if they agree – or invite children to say their own prayers about treating people fairly.*

Dear God,

Thank you that you made us all unique and that we all look different and have different personalities and different talents.

Help us to treat other people as if they’re made in your image.

Help us to be more like you and to show love and fairness towards other people.

Help us to make the world a fairer place.

Amen.