

2019 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue (Deuteronomy 16:18-20)

CHILDREN'S TIME

Please feel free to use any of these suggestions for the Children's Time, either during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity worship service or at any other time that is convenient for you.

1. Representing justice. Use this picture or another image from Google to represent justice. Or create a replica and have the children stand on each side until it is balanced.



You could also illustrate the idea of justice by having Werther's candies or some other small treat on hand and wondering aloud how they should be distributed to the group. Children are likely to know that everyone should get one. You can ask, "Why don't we give 5 to one person?" ("Because someone wouldn't get any.")

2. Using the scripture of "Seek and you shall find". Have the children establish the rules for 'hide and seek'. Then play the game according to their rules.
3. Show the children a picture of Jesus knocking on a door without a handle. (There are many images of Jesus knocking on a door without a handle on Google.) Explain the significance of the image. Ask: "Are you ever afraid and want to stay hidden?" "Do you have nightmares?" Then talk about how "God is with us."

4. Action song. Chorus of "On Eagle's Wings" can be found on Google. See also 2019 *Hymn Suggestions* resource at www.weekofprayer.ca for references to this hymn in the hymn books of various denominations.
5. Breaking the chains of injustice and division. Distribute strips of paper. Encourage children to write things that divide us or restrict us on their pieces of paper. Examples: a person's skin colour matters; boys are smarter than girls; what a person wears is important; it is all right to gossip; etc. Make a paper chain from these pieces of paper with writing on them. Explain or talk about the consequences of the chain. At the end of this activity, have the children pull the chain apart.
6. You may want to Google "Indonesia" to get pictures and information about their flowers, or commonly used fairytales and children's songs.
7. What animals are indigenous to Indonesia? Jaguars – no; Panthers – no; Tigers – yes; etc.
8. Cultivate an attitude of gratitude. Children could be encouraged to keep a 'gratitude journal' or a 'gratitude jar'. They could name what they are grateful for and pray in thanksgiving. There are many songs on YouTube for 'attitude of gratitude', for example: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WW8gyDbj_UM You can 'fill in the blank' with any suggestions the children give – like thanks for their family or home or friends, etc.