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| **Strands** | Story of the Church; Ethics and Ethical Thinking | | | |
| **Stage of Development** | Lower Secondary (Years 7-9) | **Created** May 2021 | | **Review** 2025 |
| **Aim** | This unit engages students in an exploratory study of justice and the impacts of injustice of people and people groups. It considers the teaching of Jesus Christ and his offer of hope and restoration. It looks at how Christians and Anglican Church agencies can help restore true justice by demonstrating mercy and compassion. | | | |
| **Content Descriptions** | **Knowledge and Understanding**   * Definition of justice, injustice, mercy and compassion * The connection between justice and mercy * Examples of individuals and Anglican agencies that work to restore Justice | | **Religious Studies Skills & Virtues**   * Critical thinking * Concept cracking * Justice * Mercy | |
| **Resources** | Anglican Board of Mission  <https://www.abmission.org/> | | The Anglican Board of Mission website provides information on the different projects supported by the Board. | | |
|  | Bible Gateway  [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) | | This website allows you to look up a Bible passage in a variety of translations. | | |

| **Lesson** | | **Key Questions** | **Lesson Activity Ideas** | | **Resources** |
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| **1** | Justice | What is Justice?  Where do our ideas of what constitutes justice come from?  What does Proverbs 16:8 mean? | 5min  15min  15min  10min | Share: Ask for volunteers to share their favourite character from the Justice League comic book series. Ask students why their chosen character is their favourite. Explain that today we are looking at what justice is.  Activity: There is a famous story in the Bible. Two mothers come before King Solomon. Both women had a baby at the same time. One of the women’s babies had died. No one knows which woman’s baby died apart from the two women. Both women claiming the living baby belongs to them. The women asked King Solomon to decide who gets to keep the living baby.  Ask the students to imagine they are King Solomon. What would they do to ensure justice is done for these two women? Discuss where their definition of Justice comes from. Is justice objective or subjective (revise meaning of objective and subjective)? You may like to let the students know what King Solomon does in the story. He threatens to chop the baby in half and then gives the baby to the woman who protested. In his wisdom Solomon decided the real mother would rather her child go to another woman than be killed.  Read: Proverbs 16:8 “Better a little with righteousness than much gain with injustice”. Ask the students to use Google to define righteousness and injustice. Then ask the students to work in small groups to rewrite the proverb in their own words.  Worksheet Reflection: ‘Better a little with righteousness’. Ask the students to write a reflection on where this phrase might be relevant to their life and actions. Some suggestions include how they relate to younger students in the playground, how they approach a topic test or exam etc | Worksheet: Better a Little |
| **2** | The God of Justice | How does Jesus demonstrate God’s justice?  What does it mean that Jesus will proclaim justice to the nations? | 5min  15min  10min  5min  10min | Share: Ask the students to share something that have listened to that made a real impact on them or communicated something important.  Watch & Worksheet: Matthew 12:1-21 on Bible.com (3:13min). As the students are watching ask them to write down any laws that are mentioned and reflect on whether these laws bring justice. NB: This passage has some religious terminology e.g. sabbath (holy day of rest), Pharisees (religious teachers), fulfil (make promises come true), Isaiah (a prophet recorded in the Old Testament). Discuss answers as a class.  Brainstorm: Ask the students to identify where laws and governments in Australia and across the globe might bring injustice. Discuss the students answers e.g. examples of corruption, provisions for child labour, historic laws like the White Australia Policy or laws against Aboriginals, and discuss some grey areas like Family Court rulings, equal opportunity laws etc. Is it possible that laws can bring justice to one group and injustice to another?  Discuss: In the Matthew passage Jesus claims to bring justice to the nations and provide hope of justice to the people (v18). Discuss with the students what they think God’s justice looks like. Is God unjust because he let Jesus die on the cross (Matthew 27: 45-56) Is it possible to demonstrate grace and justice at the same time? What could this mean?  Watch: The clip on Justice <https://bibleproject.com/explore/justice/> (6:18min) and discuss. | Worksheet: Laws, Justice and Mercy |
| 3 | Injustice | What is injustice?  Where do we see injustice?  What is the relationship between mercy, justice and injustice? | 10min  15min  5min  10min  5min | Discussion: What is injustice? Where do we see injustice in Australia?  Show students “A Voice in the Wildness” from the Anglican Board of Mission website. In particular page 22-23 and discuss how Aboriginal Australians have faced injustice in Australia. Discuss the impact does injustice has on people? <https://www.imags.com.au/published/voice_wilderness_statement/22/>  Research: Can poverty be a sign of injustice? What causes poverty? Look at [www.care.org.au](http://www.care.org.au) and find as many causes of poverty as possible. Discuss answers as a class. You could also consider Jeremiah 22:13.  Watch: Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy discuss what it means to have received Mercy and to show mercy and how this relates to justice. <https://www.commongrace.org.au/beatitudes_merciful> (5min).  Activity: Print out the Beatitudes sheet and cut out each row. Break the students into small groups and hand one row to each group. Ask the students to read and consider their Beatitude and report back to the class what it means. How does it relate to justice?  Discuss: Is it possible to show justice and mercy at the same time? Should our laws/governments seek to show both justice and mercy? | Link to “A voice in the Wilderness” <https://www.imags.com.au/published/voice_wilderness_statement/22/>  Care Australia website. [www.care.org.au](http://www.care.org.au)  Video of Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy speaking on the Beatitudes<https://www.commongrace.org.au/beatitudes_merciful>  Worksheet: The Beatitudes (only one copy required) |
| **4-9** | Mercy & Compassion | What is Mercy?  What is compassion?  What motivates Corrie to show mercy and compassion? |  | Watch: The Hiding Place (1975). This tells the story of Corrie ten Boom and her family who were Dutch Christians that hid Jews in their home during WWII. Corrie and her family show mercy and compassion to the Jews at great risk to themselves. The movie is available on Netflix (2hours and 30min).  Assignment Worksheet: The Hiding Place. Break the students into small groups and ask them to write and film a review of the movie. The assignment has been designed to take approximately three lessons in addition to watching the film. | Movie: The Hiding Place  Movie review <http://decentfilms.com/reviews/hidingplace> |