



MAIN POINT:

Just Choices.

*God wants to help us
make the best choices
because God is just!*

LESSON FLOW:

Opening Discussion	5 min
Bible Time	5 min
Kids Care Vids	1 min
Story	15 min
Activity	10 min
Discussion Questions	5 min
Prayer	1 min
Just One Day Idea	10 min

OPENING DISCUSSION: **Would You Rather?**

Invite your Kids Care group to play the game “Would You Rather” with a partner. The game is played by one player thinking of two scenarios and asking their partner to choose which one they would prefer. Here are some examples:

“Would you rather be able to fly or breathe under water?”

“Would you rather be a wizard or a superhero?”

“Would you rather eat a whole onion or a whole lemon?”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

How did it feel to be able to make the choices in the game?

What choices were difficult?

Which ones were easy? Why?



Kids Care Vids: Download the educational videos to better engage your Sunday school students as you teach the Kids Care: Just Choices lessons.

There is a video for each lesson. Watch for the Kids Care Vids symbol in the lesson to indicate when to play them. *Please note, these are completely optional!*



Play Kids Care Vid Episode 1
after the Bible Time

Deuteronomy 32:4 Contemporary English Version (CEV)

The Lord is a mighty rock, and he never does wrong. God can always be trusted to bring justice.

Deuteronomy 32:4 New International Version (NIV)

He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

BIBLE TIME: **Our Choices Matter**

We make choices every day.

What are some of those choices? (Examples: *What to eat, wear, play with, etc.*)
Do you find it difficult to make choices sometimes? Why?

Our choices affect all sorts of things! Our choices can affect us, our friends, the planet, and our relationship with God. That means we need to think about the choices we make before we make them. As followers of Jesus, we want to make choices that help us and help others too. We want to make choices that are good for the earth and won't harm the things God has created. We want to make choices that please God in the way we treat others and help us to know Jesus more.

Making decisions can be difficult, but thankfully we have help. God wants to help us make the best choices because GOD IS JUST! The Bible tells us:

"The Lord is a mighty rock, and he never does wrong. God can always be trusted to bring justice."

Deuteronomy 32:4 Contemporary English Version (CEV)

God is just, which means that God is a God of justice. **What does that mean?**

Justice means "to make right". We know that in our world there are lots of things that aren't right or good. Can you think of some things that aren't right that are happening today? (Climate change, war, poverty, bullying, unequal access to education for girls, child labour.) There are lots of things happening in the world that aren't the way God wants them to be, but there is good news - God is just! That means that God is working to make all the wrong things right again. He's working so that someday people won't fight, and someday the planet will be clean and healthy, and someday everyone will have enough, and no one will be poor. Deuteronomy 32:4 reminds us of the promise that God is JUST.

In each lesson we're going to learn about a way that CBM is helping to make things right in the world. Together we will learn about five different projects.

Here's more good news... God wants us to join him and help make things right in the world! Have you ever heard of "human rights"? Human rights ensure that all people are treated with dignity and equality. That means that everyone in the world deserves to be safe and have access to the things they need to live, regardless of where they are born in the world.

Can you think of some things that might be human rights?

STORY: **Argentine at School**

Did you know that everyone has the right to education? That's an important human right. Did you know that there are places in the world where children and youth are not able to go to school? Can you think of some reasons why some people aren't able to go to school? (possible answers include: lack of access, unable to pay school fees, war, natural disasters, child labor, etc) That's not okay! U + I can do something about it! Listen to this story about what's happening in Rwanda, a country in Africa where CBM works:



Argentine lives with her family in a rural area of Rwanda called the Karambo village. She is the oldest child, and has two younger brothers. Their small home is situated on land that is unable to produce enough food to feed the family, and as a result they are often hungry. Argentine's family has also been unable to afford to send her to school. She had been sent home from school many times because she did not have school fees. Through the OVC program in her community, Argentine is now able to go to school. She has a mentor that supports her education, and she receives financial support to pay for school and her school supplies. Argentine was about to give up, but now she has hope in her dream of being an environmental engineer so she can work to improve the infertile land in Rwanda,

making it good for growing crops. Argentine is grateful for the OVC program at her church and says that through her church and the support of churches in Canada she is able to go to school and have hope for the future.



CBM works with the Association of Baptist Churches in Rwanda (AEBR) on various levels, including theological education and community development. Together, CBM and the AEBR have formed the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) project, which helps local Baptist churches support the most vulnerable children and youth in their communities.

Though an entire generation of children were left without parents after the genocide, today, abandonment and disease continue to rob children and youth of their parents as well. This leaves communities with several impoverished child-headed households, leaving families vulnerable and alone. The OVC project strives to ensure those who have been left behind are not forgotten, but instead, have every opportunity for a better future.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: **Rwanda**

Rwanda is currently the most densely populated country in mainland Africa, with roughly half of the population under the age of 18. It is a nation that has long been working to heal from the tragic and compounding effects of the 1994 genocide, HIV and AIDS pandemic, as well as extreme poverty.

The impacts continue to be felt at many levels today, particularly among the generation left orphaned and traumatized. The nation has made remarkable progress towards good governance and helping the poor, but poverty remains one of the main issues affecting nearly half of the population today.

ACTIVITY: Unjust Education

Preparation:

You will need pieces of paper and pencils for this activity. You will be dividing your Kids Care group into 2 teams. The first group will have approximately 1/8 of the number children and the second group will have 7/8. For example, if you have 24 children in your group, they will be divided into a group of 3 and a group of 21.

Place two piles of papers and pencils at the front of your room: one pile with 3 pencils and papers and the other pile with 24 papers and pencils.

Section of a small area of your classroom

Instructions:

- The divide your Kids Care group into two teams: a small group (about 1/8 of the class) and a large group (7/8 of the class). Move the large group to the small sectioned off area of your classroom. This space should be crowded with inadequate seating. The small group will have the rest of the classroom.
- Tell your Kids Care group you will be giving them an important spelling test. They will be given 5 words and must each write their individual answers on the paper provided.
- Pass out the piles of paper and pencils so that the smaller group gets the larger pile of supplies and the larger group gets the small pile of paper and pencils. Give your Kids Care group time to divide up the supplies. At this point the larger group will realize their disadvantage.
- Begin dictating the spelling words (for example education, share, group, problem, resources, read, math, etc choosing words appropriate to the age group). Dictate the words at a challenging pace but at a speed at which students in the small group will do well. Respond to objections from the larger group by telling them to do their best with what they have. Do not allow them to leave their places.
- Collect all the papers, keeping the ones from the small group on top. Scan the paper and announce that the smaller group passed. Reveal that this was not a real spelling test, but a game to learn about how unfair access to education can be.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

How did this activity make you feel?

What words would you use to describe the situation that was created (ex. Unfair, unjust)

Did you try to do anything to balance or fix the situation?

What did you learn?

How is learning affected when children don't have access to school, teachers or enough school supplies?

How might a lack of access to education effect children and communities long term?



SNACK: East African Chapati

An unleavened flatbread originating from the Indian subcontinent.

Serving: Makes 4-6 large chapatis

Ingredients:

- 3 cups all purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons oil
- 1 1/4 cup warm water



Photo by ImmaculateBites

This recipe is from:

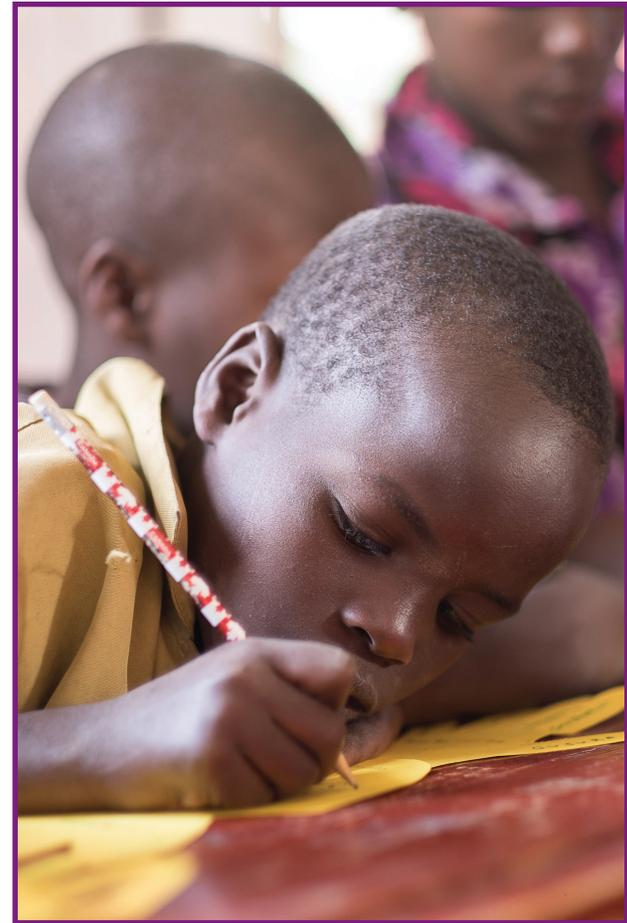
africanbites.com/east-african-chapati

Instructions:

- In a large bowl add flour and make a well then add sugar, salt, followed by water and oil
- Knead to form a soft and sticky dough.
- Place dough on a heavily floured board and knead for about 8-14 minutes. Dough should be soft, elastic and smooth.
- Divide dough into 8 pieces and let it rest 10 mins
- Using a rolling pin roll out dough into a circle. They do not have to be perfect circles.
- Oil the dough making sure you oil the edges too.
- Cook for about 2-3 minutes rotating as need until golden brown.

PRAYER:

God, thank you for being just and making things right in the world you created. Help to us speak out for those who lack basic rights as humans. Help us to speak out for those who are being treated unjustly and unfairly in our homes, schools, and communities. Thank you for making every person in your image. Amen.



Just One Day:

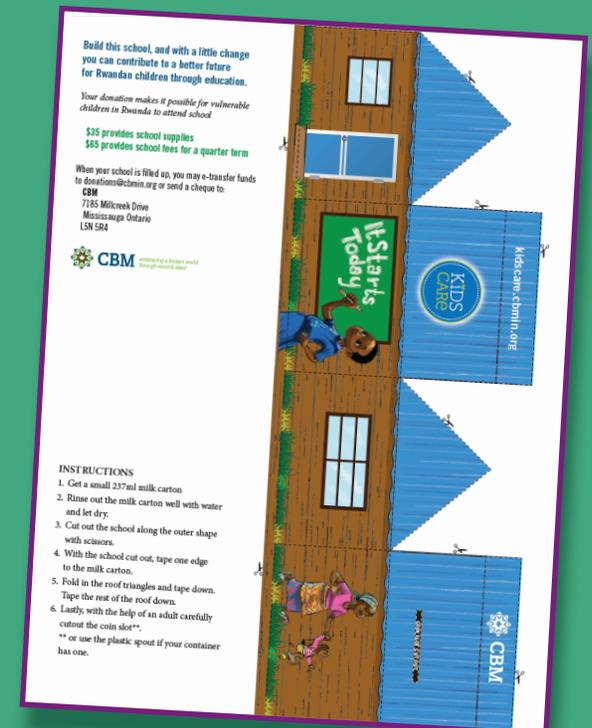
HERE'S AN IDEA: *School house Fundraiser*

Download and assemble a **School House Money Box** to raise money for kids education in Rwanda. Once assembled, begin filling it a little at a time with your Kids Care group.

Funds raised will ensure children have better access to education, which includes paying for school fees, uniforms and supplies. Participants receive socio-economic support, improved access to health care, as well as vocational and life skills training to help children and youth become less susceptible to abuse and exploitation.

Access to psychosocial care is also an important element provided to help children, youth and adults heal from the effects of trauma and other challenges.

You can download the template for the **School House Money Box** at: kidscare.cbmin.org





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*embracing a broken world
through word & deed*