

## Always Fair

Justice is integral to God's character. He isn't just from choice – He is just because that is His nature.

Ask the children what justice/just means.

“Just” means having high moral standards, being honest, and being fair and impartial. God is holy – His standards are high. God is impartial – He doesn't have favourites, He treats us all the same.

## Detention for You

Getting Started – 10 minutes – Visual & Audio Clip

**Summary:** Harry, Ron and Hermione have broken the school rules by going out of the school building after dark. Malfoy, ostensibly concerned, has followed them and reports them to Professor Magonagle. All four receive detention!

*Please note: This film is rated PG and is therefore considered to be appropriate for general viewing, and should not unsettle a child aged 8 or older. Leaders are advised to consider whether the content of a PG film may upset younger, or more sensitive, children, so you may wish to seek parental permission for younger children in your group.*

*If you don't want your child to watch the clip you can use a similar example (without your child watching the clip) and use the same question below.*

**Start clip from 1min 20 secs in**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T0rAyWiBAvs>

Play the clip and discuss these points with the group.

- Do you think Professor Magonagle wanted to punish Harry and the others?
- Do you think Malfoy expected to be punished?
- Why were all four punished the same way?
- Do you think rules should be obeyed?
- What would happen if people broke rules when they felt like it, instead of keeping them?
- How would you feel if your teacher sometimes punished people, and sometimes didn't and it all depended on whether she liked you or not?

Say that, when people keep rules it is better because we all know where we are – we know that if we do something wrong we will be punished.

God always sticks to the same rules, and that should give us confidence because we always know just where we stand before him!

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## **Stick With Him**

Digging in – 15 minutes – Craft Ideas

### **Equipment**

Oasis (flower arranging foam), water, a selection of twigs with foliage on them, small pieces of fruit or paper that can be made to look like fruit, soft wire, Bibles.

Read [John 15:1-6](#) to the group. Ask them to get into small groups and give each small group a bundle of twigs, some oasis, some paper and scissors and thread, wire or sellotape. You could also give them Bibles so that they can refer back to the Bible passage if necessary.

Ask the children to use their twigs to make two models to illustrate what happens to people who remain with Jesus and to people who don't.

Admire the finished models!

Ask the children how this passage shows us that God is just?

Say that the same consequences apply to everyone who follows Jesus – he helps them to be fruitful. And the same consequences apply to everyone who doesn't follow Jesus – it doesn't matter if you are an emperor or a beggar, Jesus treats us all with the same rules!

**The Point:** To see that God treats us all justly.

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## **Pray for Justice**

Response – 10 minutes – Prayer

Show a map of the world. A globe will do!

Say that although God is just and wants justice, man is selfish and often acts in a way that is unjust. Many people in the world are suffering because of injustice.

Choose 2 or 3 areas in the world where injustice is rife. Put a flag on the country that you are talking about, and explain a little of the situation. Look at the news to find relevant news around the world, it might include:

- In Indonesia, people are being persecuted for being Christians.

- In China, people are persecuted for following any religion.
- There is a lot of poverty in the third world because they are in debt to richer countries, and sometimes because of war or famine.
- Many farmers in poor countries have to sell their food too cheaply because the people buying won't give them a fair price for it – they will only offer a low price.

Pray for justice in the situations that you have spoken about.

**The Point:** To realise that we need to be involved in justice – we need to share God's heart and pray for the people who are facing injustice.

### **Challenge for this week!!!**

Have a look at this website, Christians all over the world are persecuted (mistreated) for what they believe in so before you go to bed this week choose a country and pray for all of those who are being treated unfairly.

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/world-watch-list/>

## The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

*Luke 18:9-14*

