



The Leprosy
Mission
Northern Ireland

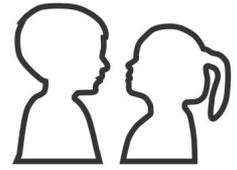


Fair Share

Meet Yogita



Fair Share



This resource for school and youth groups explores issues of justice, fairness and sharing. It draws on the ministry of both Jesus, and the current work of The Leprosy Mission to illustrate these issues. You can introduce the topic of Fair Share with the 'Would You Rather' icebreaker, then play the purposefully unfair games, let the group meet Yogita, and reflect on how the boy, in the Bible passage about feeding the 5,000, set a good example for sharing. All of these tools will help your group explore and learn more about the idea of giving everyone their Fair Share.

Icebreaker **Would You Rather...Going to School**

Get the group to choose which school activity they would rather do, given the choice

- Would you rather have school dinners or packed lunch?
- Would you rather be moved down a year or be moved up a year?
- Would you rather be the teacher or be the principal for the day?
- Would you rather have lots of homework or have class instead of lunch?
- Would you rather go home late or come in to school early?
- Would you rather have uniform or no uniform?

School can often divide opinion. We might not like getting up and dressed each morning, doing homework and having to revise for tests! But without school, we wouldn't be able to read, write, add or subtract. We'd miss out on learning about loads of important stuff, like new languages, water cycles, historical battles and science experiments! Believe it or not, going to school is one of the most important things you will do in life!

We believe that every child in the world should have the opportunity to go to school.

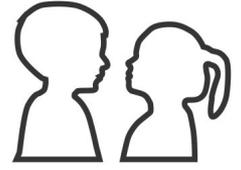
Children with leprosy often miss out on that opportunity. They don't have enough money to buy books, school bag and uniform. They often live in a village filled only with people who have leprosy. They've been put together in that village by the leaders of their country, where they are out of the way and forgotten about. There are over 800 of these villages in India. Even when children with leprosy can afford to go to school, they are often bullied, and made to feel very unwelcome by their classmates. They are called rude names, and excluded from friendship groups. This can make children with leprosy very sad, and can lead them to stop going to school. We believe that all of this is not fair! We want to ask for your help in changing this situation for children with leprosy.

Sharing Sweets

For this game, you will need: Bag of sweets/chocolates

Give out sweets/chocolates. Give different amounts of sweets to different people. Tell the group that they are not allowed to eat them, instead they have to try and agree to find a fair way of sharing the sweets. See if any of the members with more sweets are willing to share with those with less sweets!

Fair Share



For younger groups help them to add up what an even amount of sweets for each person would be. Ask them to share with one another! You might want to have some supplementary sweets at hand to offset any injustices! For older groups, allow the group to discuss and debate with freedom, and reach their own conclusion on how they share. You could finish by asking the children how they felt if they had less sweets than the others.

Box Challenge

Place a box at the front of the room. Get everyone to take a seat somewhere in the room, then give out sheets of newspaper. get them to make a snowball or a paper aeroplane from their sheet, and then, from where they are sitting, try and get their newspaper into the box. Those that are successful, get a sweet! Is the game fair?

Take some time to talk about how group members felt about the rules of each of these games, and what things they could do to make the games fairer.

Meet Yogita

Yogita lives in a leprosy village in India. She is 12 years old. She was born in this village, and has lived there all her life because her mum had leprosy. Her parents couldn't afford to send her to school, so supporters of The Leprosy Mission have helped her to go to school since she was 7.

Last year, she noticed some white patches on her face. These patches started to spread over her body. Patches like these are often the first sign of leprosy. After a test, it was confirmed that Yogita had leprosy. Her hands began to lose the sense of touch. This was a very strange experience for Yogita, who had grown up being able to tell the difference between soft and hard, hot and cold, smooth and rough. Now her hands are in danger of getting hurt, because she can't tell if something is too hot, or too sharp.

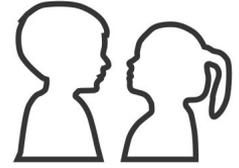
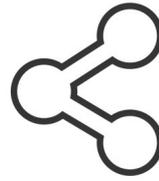
Yogita had another problem too. She stopped going to school because people started to make fun of her, calling her names. She was very sad. Before catching leprosy she had loved school, and had hoped to become a doctor when she grew up.

At the Leprosy Mission hospital, she got some medicine to cure her of leprosy. It took her a whole year of tablets to stop the leprosy once and for all. A Leprosy Mission worker listened to her fears and worries about school and helped Yogita feel confident enough to return to school.

Yogita has worked really hard, and managed to catch up and pass her year, despite missing much of it. She'll now move from Standard 8 to Standard 9. She also took part in the end of year Talent Show, and teachers noted how well she did in it, and how much more confident she is becoming.



Fair Share



The Boy who shared his lunch

Read to the group the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 from John 6:1-14.

- Talk about the generous boy who donated his lunch to help others. Acknowledge that sharing is often difficult, but learning from this boy's example helps us to see why it is so important.
- Consider why the boy gave his lunch to Jesus. Did the boy perhaps think that it was not fair to keep all that food for himself? Ask the question: would you share your food, even if there was a chance you might not get to eat any of it?
- Talk about how Jesus was able to use the little amount of food that the boy had and help lots of very hungry people with it. God can often take what little we have, and do amazing things with it!



Fair Share

It is not fair that children are made to miss school because of leprosy, and because other people make fun of them, and call them names. We work hard to stop this from happening. Your group can get involved and help children with leprosy get their Fair Share. They can pray and raise money to make a difference in the lives of children like Yogita. Here are some ideas:

Pray

- Each week as you meet, pray for Yogita, and others like her. Remember the 1000 students in India who are helped to go to school by The Leprosy Mission each year
- Write or draw a Fair Share prayer. Put them up on the noticeboard to share with others

Raise funds

- You could share your energy, and do a sponsored walk or run
- Why not collect and share your books and toys, and run a bring and buy sale
- Share your talents; host a talent show fundraiser for family and friends or bake some goodies to sell

£50 can send a child like Yogita to school for a year!

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