



## A School Act of Collective Worship

### Week 4: Theme – Peace with justice for the hospitals of Gaza.

**Song:** He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

**Bible passage:** Amos 5:24

Let justice roll down like waters and  
righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

#### Gather

Play the song [Let Justice Roll Like a River](#) by North Coast Calvary Chapel as children enter the room. This is a song taking words directly from Amos 5:24. It declares that 'justice will roll like a river'. It also speaks of the injustice in the world we see and challenges us to act.

In your mind's eye go to the place you feel most relaxed and peaceful.

**Q:** Where are you? With the responses make the observation that the majority of pupils are most peaceful and relaxed in a place where they are safe, warm and loved. For many it will be their homes or bedrooms.

Many people across the world do not have a safe place they call 'home'. This can be for a number of reasons often that aren't their own fault. Safety is needed by everyone. If we don't have safety, we are experiencing injustice. You may remember from another collective worship that injustice is when life is not just or fair. Christians say God cares when life isn't fair or just, that's because he is a God of justice. Part of his character is to be fair; he can't be unfair. The song playing as we entered said that God asks for justice to roll like a river.



#### Engage

Show this [image](#) (Reuters)

The conflict in Gaza and Israel has been going on for several months. On one side, the government of Israel, say they are fighting back at a group called Hamas, after Hamas attacked them and Hamas are fighting Israel back. Hamas are connected to an area called Gaza.

The people in Gaza are very poor, with 80% or four in every five people living in poverty. They were very poor before the conflict began. Now people in Gaza are in a much worse situation. Lots of people have had to leave their homes because they are being destroyed. Lots of people need medical help. Earlier I asked you to imagine a place where you are most relaxed and peaceful. When there is fighting in a country, a hospital should be a place where there is peace, safety, help and recovery. In southern Gaza, there used to be 12 hospitals, now only 7 remain and two more have only parts of them working.



*Show image.* There are different types of buildings in the picture.

**Q:** Which one would you go to for safety?

The picture shows Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza in the background.

**Q:** Can you see what the words say on the front? This hospital has been hit with bombs so many times that it can't be used to help people anymore.

### **Respond**

*Display the words from Amos 5:24 and ask pupils to read the passage from three different versions of the same passage from the Christian Bible. Perhaps a pupil or staff member is able to read it in a language other than English.*

God says 'Do you know what I want? I want justice—oceans of it. I want fairness—rivers of it. That's what I want. That's all I want.'

*The Message*

God says '... let justice flow like a stream, and righteousness like a river that never goes dry.'

*Good News Translation*

God says 'Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.'

*English Standard Version*

*Return to the map image.* For people in Gaza, what might justice look like? Feel like? Sound like?

Gaza is found in the Diocese of Jerusalem. A Diocese is an area of land looked after by a Bishop. Just like Bishop Christopher is Bishop of Southwark, so there is one Bishop covering all of Gaza, Israel and a number of other countries. During Lent we remember the areas connected to Southwark Diocese. So we remember those in Zimbabwe, in Gaza and in other parts of Israel and Palestine. And we pray for justice to roll like a river across all these areas.

### **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we thank you that you care for those experiencing injustice. Your heart hurts for those who are looking for a place of safety and care and you are close to people in pain. Please bring peace to Gaza and all Israel. Thank you that you won't let injustice continue but your justice and righteousness is stronger.

Make strong the people working in hospitals across Gaza and Israel. Please would there be enough electricity, medical supplies and people to care for the sick really well.

Amen.

### **A Reflection**

Listen and watch the song again.

[Let Justice Roll Like a River](#)

Use your sight and hearing senses to help you understand what justice is.

**Q:** What does the movement and body language of the people in the video tell you about what they believe?

**Q:** One of the people is wearing a red t-shirt. What does it say? How does this connect to justice?

**Q:** Is the song slow, fast, silly, serious, positive, negative? What does that tell you about justice?

**Q:** What do the lyrics tell you about justice?

**Q:** Are there any words you don't understand?

