



# Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

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**An easy to use plan for a Children's Meeting about the difficult question of violence**

## **An easy to use plan for a Children's Meeting on Violence**

Make sure you have a little time of worship for yourself and other volunteers before the session – even a couple of minutes are good.

The outline is based on a 45 minutes children's meeting.

**Materials:** A tray, a small amount of sand, some small wooden figures or some simple ones made from cardboard that will stand up in the sand, and a piece of blue material cut in half for the divided sea. See picture on *Additional Resource 71.B* of issue 71 of the children's edition of *Journeys in the Spirit*. Have also some paper, pens and crayons. Have ready cut out pictures/images of violence from *Additional Resources 71.A* of issue 71 of the children's work edition of *Journeys in the Spirit* and the story on *Additional Resources 71.B* of the same issue.

### **Gather:**

Begin by asking everyone to say their names, especially if there are people in the group who do not know each other. They could also say something they have done this week or a favourite book or film.

Lay down cut out pictures from *Additional Resource 71.A* on the floor or table and explain that you want them to look at the pictures in silence for a minute or two.

After a few moments talk with the children about the pictures asking the following questions:

- Do you know what each picture is about?
- Do you like these pictures?
- How do they make you feel?

The pictures might make us feel sad, uncomfortable, or even frightened. Explain that what is happening in the pictures is called violence. This can be physical such as hitting, bullying, beating; and it can be emotional such as shouting, swearing, or making someone do something they don't want to do. Encourage the children to share their understanding of violence. This might be from stories, film or television.

**10 minutes**

**Engage:** Read the story from the Bible of the Exodus *Additional Resources 71.B*. What were the terrible violent things that happened to the people in the story? Draw out how the people of God were made to obey the Pharaoh – they were slaves, the violence of the children dying, the army coming after the people of God and the drowning of the Pharaoh's army.

**10 minutes**

**Respond:** Encourage the children to act out the story using the props. Some might like to draw/illustrate the story. Others might like to continue talking about the story. Talk about how violent things happen to "good" people and "bad" people. Nobody benefits from the use of violence. Ask some questions like – *I wonder which part of this story you like the best; which part you think is most important; which part might be like something about your life; is there any part of the story you could leave out and still have all the story you need.*

**20 minutes**

**Reflect:** Have a few minutes for all the children to talk about how they feel about the story now, and anything that has come out of it for them. Finish with a short time of stillness.

**5 minutes**