



A Short Children's Talk for Church or Assembly

You could use this talk to introduce the Kids 4 Kids program to the children and the congregation, or use it at the end of the series, so the children can share with the congregation what they have done.

Preparation:

Draw 2 pictures or do 2 paintings.

- Picture A: Place it carefully in a frame or inside a folder to keep it safe.
- Picture B: Screw it up a bit, stand on it, and give it a few tears and dirty marks.

(You could use some other piece of craft work, as appropriate). Select 2 people from the congregation, and take them through the talk. Give each of them one of the paintings to bring up in the talk.

The Talk

I spent a long time painting some pictures and I gave them to my friends. I want to show them to you. *[Call up your two helpers]*

Person A comes up with the Painting. Show the picture and talk about it with pride. Meanwhile, Person B is scratching around in their bag, trying to find Painting B.

Eventually they find the painting in the bottom of the bag. When they take it out it is screwed up and torn and dirty.

What happened to the picture I gave you? You've let it get all screwed up and torn— Why didn't you look after it? (Ad lib a bit)

Person B: I don't know, I just forgot about it. I must have shoved too many things in my bag.

Didn't you realise that this was special to me. I told you how long it took me to make, and how much I liked it!

Person B: Oh well... *(Shrugs and walks away).*

To the children:

That makes me so upset. [Name] didn't look after the picture I drew! They didn't care at all.

Has anybody ever done this to you, treated something of yours like it doesn't matter? Maybe they've borrowed a pencil at school and broken it, or maybe they've wrecked something you made? How does that make you feel?

This happens to God all the time. God had made the world and everything and every person in the world. Every person is very precious to Him. We show our respect for God by the way we treat the people that He made. God gets sad when we treat other people badly, or when we let other people be treated badly. God gets sad when we let some people be poor, and not have the things they need. There are many Bible verses about this, but here is one of them.

Proverbs 14:31: He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God.

To the Congregation:

The children in Sunday School [Kids' Church...] are going to be learning [have been learning] about how some children in our world live, and how we can honor God....

Go on to either introduce the Kids 4 Kids program, or have the children show what they have done.

A Puppet Play or Skit for Church or Assembly

Thanks to Nick Cotter from the Burwood Bread of Life Chinese Church Kids' Church for this idea.

As a mark of respect, the puppet is called 'Ella', after Nick's puppet! The "straight" character is called 'Bella'. Substitute your own names, as appropriate.

Make sure you have enough Tim Tams for all the kids!

ELLA Tim Tams! Yum! A whole packet, all for me!

BELLA Greedy guts! Eat all those, and you'll be really sick.

ELLA No, I won't. I've got a Tim Tam-proof stomach. It just gets bigger to hold more Tim Tams. *(She starts ripping the packet open.)*

BELLA Haven't you heard that it's very bad manners to eat in front of other people?

ELLA *(Notices the rest of the kids).* Hmmm. Well, let 'em get their own Tim Tams.

BELLA That's not very kind. They mightn't be able to.

ELLA That's not my fault!

BELLA You could offer to share.

ELLA *(Horried, hugging her Tim Tams).* Share! With all of them! No way!

BELLA Why not. It would work really well. Everyone would get a Tim Tam, and you wouldn't get sick, eating them all yourself.

ELLA That is the silliest idea I've ever heard. Go away and let me eat my Tim Tams in peace.

BELLA God wouldn't be pleased, you know.

ELLA I hate it when you say that. *(Sing song voice, mimicking Bella)* God wouldn't be pleased, you know. *(Normal voice)* Where in the Bible does it say anything about Tim Tams?

BELLA Well, not about Tim Tams exactly...

ELLA *(Interrupting)* Ha!

BELLA ...but lots about sharing.

ELLA *(Sighs).* OK, tell me. You're going to anyway.

BELLA *(Opens Bible)* Let's take Amos, for example.

ELLA *(Grumpy).* YOU take him, I don't want him.

BELLA God gave Amos a really difficult message to give to the people. They'd been greedy and selfish... *(Pauses, looks meaningfully at Ella)*... Amos says they "trample on the heads of the poor... and deny justice to the oppressed." He goes on and on *(turning the pages)* about how awful they were, and how God was going to destroy them.

ELLA How come all these prophets were so miserable, always saying that horrible things were going to happen?

BELLA I guess because people were so disobedient and didn't listen to God. Like people today. People who don't want to know about those who live in poor countries, who don't care, so long as they're comfortable.



Children's Church Talk

ELLA Yeah, but couldn't they say something GOOD now and then?

BELLA Well, Amos did. He wrote this – it's lovely. Listen.
(Reads) Let justice roll on like a river, and righteousness like a never-failing stream!
Isn't that great?

ELLA Hmm. Sounds wonderful. But, does it mean I have to share my
Tim Tams?

BELLA Do you think it would be just to do that?

ELLA I guess so. *(Brightens)* Hey! Let justice RRROLLLL! *(Rips open her packet of Tim
Tams and shares them out among the children).*

END

Go on to talk about how we can "let justice roll", by praying, giving and speaking out.