

# Junior Soldiers

UNIT 16 : LESSON 2



## International Day of the Girl

**PURPOSE:** To understand more about the issues that girls are facing around the world and how we can make a difference by using our voice.

“Words of wisdom come when good people speak for justice.” Psalm 37:30

## Consider & Prepare

Girls have been explicitly mentioned in annual themes for International Women’s Day just three times in the past 100 years. The combination of their gender and age renders them almost invisible.

Girls are especially vulnerable due to their age and often complete lack of power or control over their lives. This means a different, and perhaps more urgent, response is required if we are to harness their potential to create a better life for themselves and their children, a more prosperous, peaceful community and a healthier workforce.

The International Day of the Girl Child gives people and organizations the opportunity to raise public awareness of the different types of discrimination and abuse that many girls around the world suffer. On this day, many political and community leaders will talk to the public about the importance of girls' rights to equal education and their fundamental freedoms.

Included in this lesson is an optional section that you might like to use about a courageous young woman named Malala. Malala Yousafzai is a young Muslim woman. She began to make her voice heard on behalf of girls in need when she was just a child herself.

Malala Yousafzai was born on July 12, 1997, in Mingora, Pakistan. As a child, she became an advocate for girls' education, which resulted in the Taliban issuing a death threat against her. On October 9, 2012, a gunman shot Malala when she was traveling home from school. She survived, and has continued to speak out on the importance of education. She was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 2013. In 2014, she was nominated again and won, becoming the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

You might like to watch this clip about Malala's story.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NlqOhxQ0-H8>

Consider working together with your group on one of the Home and Beyond ideas as a project.

God clearly calls us to treat all people with equality and love. Hearing about these issues can leave us feeling overwhelmed and helpless. Make sure you conclude this lesson by reminding the children that making our voice heard can make a difference to girls who are suffering.

### What you'll need:

- You will need a collection of tokens (12 per boy and 6 per girl). The tokens can be:
  - Pebbles
  - Pieces of cardboard
  - Small coins
  - M&M's
  - Any other small item that you have plenty of
- Make a 'market' by printing copies of the cards in Appendix A. You will need a few copies less than one per child. The idea is that not everyone will be able to purchase clean water or food etc. Spread the cards out on a table or a space on the floor
- A large sheet of paper or a whiteboard for brainstorming
- Markers or pencils

### What you'll need For Tying In

- Equipment to show YouTube clip of Malala's story (Optional)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NlqOhxQ0-H8>
- Paper and markers or iPads or computers to design the slogans

Here are some more links if you would like to find out more:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Day\\_of\\_the\\_Girl\\_Child](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Day_of_the_Girl_Child)

<http://www.un.org/en/events/girlchild/>

## Connecting In

What is the International Day of the Girl?

Today we are going to learn about the International Day of the Girl Child.

- The International Day of the Girl
  - Was started in 2011 by the United Nations (UN)
  - Is now held every year, around the world, on October 11
  - It began because people noticed that girls are often not treated well just because they are girls
  - These people wanted to help others understand about some of the things that are happening to girls in our world
  - It's true that there are boys in the world who are treated unjustly but today we are thinking specifically about the unfair things that happen to girls

**Add a subheading**

## What does God say?

Let's begin by looking at some of what God says about this in the Bible.

Ask the children to look up the following verses in their Bibles and read them out loud.

- Treat everyone with love
  - Matthew 22:37-38 Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. This is the first and most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like this one. And it is, "Love others as much as you love yourself."
  - John 13:34 I am giving you a new command. You must love each other, just as I have loved you. If you love each other, everyone will know that you are my disciples.
  - Galatians 5:14 All that the Law says can be summed up in the command to love others as much as you love yourself.
  - Ephesians 4:2 Always be humble and gentle. Patiently put up with each other and love each other.
- Treat everyone equally
  - Malachi 2:10 Don't you know that we all have God as our Father? Didn't the one God create each of us? Then why do you cheat each other by breaking the agreement God made with your ancestors?
  - Proverbs 22:2 The rich and the poor are all created by the Lord.
- Help those in need
  - Proverbs 22: 9 The Lord blesses everyone who freely gives food to the poor
  - Deuteronomy 14: 29 The Levites have no land of their own, so you must give them food from the storehouse. You must also give food to the poor who live in your town, including orphans, widows, and foreigners. If they have enough to eat, then the Lord your God will be pleased and make you successful in everything you do.
  - Deuteronomy 15:10-11 You should be happy to give the poor what they need, because then the Lord will make you successful in everything you do. There will always be some Israelites who are poor and needy. That's why I am commanding you to be generous with them.

God has made it very clear that he wants us to treat **everyone** with love and to help people in need.

# The Main Thing

We can't help if we don't know that there is a problem, so let's look now at some of the difficulties that girls are experiencing.

Take a collection of 'tokens' (12 per boy and 6 per girl) and hand them out after saying each of these statements. Each time, give two tokens to each boy and one token to each girl. If you have only boys or only girls in your group then assign some to be the opposite gender for this activity.

**In many countries around the world**

- Boys are better educated than girls
- Boys get better jobs than girls
- Boys get more money than girls for the same work
- Boys can choose who they want to marry but girls cannot
- Boys get better health care than girls
- Boys are given more to eat than girls

**Now take a token away from each girl after you say each of these statements**

- Girls are being sold as slaves
- Girls can be married when they are as young as eight years old
- Girls have babies when they are still very young themselves
- Girls are being beaten

Each of you now has some tokens that you can spend at the market place. As we do this activity we are going to see how unfair life can be for girls in some places. This is just a game, so don't get too upset if you miss out on something, but remember that this is something like what really happens for many girls.

Now invite the boys to come to the 'market' that you have prepared and choose items that they would like to spend their tokens on. Provide several of each item but not enough for everyone. For instance, if you have ten children, only provide enough clean water for eight. Each item costs one token. When the boys have finished invite the girls to come and purchase what they would like from the leftovers.

- RICE
- VEGETABLES
- MEAT
- CLEAN WATER

- SHELTER
- WARM CLOTHES
- BLANKET
- A VEGETABLE GARDEN
- SEEDS TO GROW FOOD
- CHICKENS TO PRODUCE EGGS
- SHOES
- MEDICINE
- A VISIT TO THE DOCTOR
- TRANSPORT
- LEGAL HELP
- VOTE

#### Ask the children

- What were you able to buy at the market?
- Were you able to buy all the things you need to survive?
- How did you feel about this activity?
- What are some words that describe how you feel knowing that this is what really happens for many girls in our world? Ask the children to write these words to a large sheet of paper or whiteboard.

#### Brainstorm

- What do you think happens to these girls who can't get enough to survive?  
Add these to the same sheet of paper/ whiteboard that contains the feelings from the previous question.
- What is the situation in our own community?
  - Do boys and girls have the things they need to grow into healthy adults?
  - Are boys and girls treated equally?

When boys or men keep on getting more than girls or women, they end up having more power. International Day of the Girl reminds us that around the world, people are working to make sure that all people, including girls have

- Equal rights
- Independence
- A life that is free from violence
- Enough money to live

- A voice in their community
- Shelter
- Protection from forced marriages
- Medical care
- Counselling
- A good education
- Healthy food
- Legal rights
- Protection from unfair treatment
- Training for jobs

## Tying In

Lots of people around the world are working on projects to help make sure all people are treated fairly. We can join in.

When more people understand and start talking about these issues, politicians will be more likely to listen. They are the ones who can make important decisions to make big changes happen.

### Optional – The story of Malala Yousafzai

Malala Yousafzai is a young Muslim woman. She began to make her voice heard on behalf of girls in need when she was just a child herself. Malala was living in Pakistan and this is a dangerous place for a girl to make her voice heard.

Members of the Taliban were angry about what Malala was saying and shot her. Malala survived and she and her family moved out of Pakistan. When she had recovered from her injuries, Malala went right back to making her voice heard. In 2014 she won the Nobel Peace Prize.

You might like to show this clip about Malala's story.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NlqOhxQ0-H8>

Malala finished her acceptance speech, with these words...

Dear sisters and brothers, let us become the first generation to decide to be the last.

The empty classrooms, the lost childhoods, wasted potential-let these things end with us.

Let this be the last time that a boy or a girl spends their childhood in a factory.

Let this be the last time that a girl gets forced into early child marriage.

Let this be the last time that an innocent child loses their life in war.

Let this be the last time that a classroom remains empty.

Let this be the last time that a girl is told education is a crime and not a right.

Let this be the last time that a child remains out of school.

Let us begin this ending.

Let this end with us.

And let us build a better future right here, right now.

### Ask the children

- What do you think about what Malala is doing?
- Do you agree with what she says?

### You can make your voice heard

- Write an article for your local newspaper or school newsletter
- Write a blog and ask your parents to help you post it online
- Write a letter to your local politician
- Record a video and put it on YouTube – (don't show yourself or other children in the clip)
- Make a poster and ask a local shop if you can put it in their window
- Create a leaflet and put it in letterboxes in your street
- Start a club at school to let other kids know about the issues
- Write a song about International Day of the Girl
- Design a t-shirt (You can purchase and print your design for approx. \$15 each – sell them and use the profit to fund a project to help girls!)

### Prayer Activity

Work in small groups to create a slogan that you can use to promote the rights of girls around the world.

Create a display of these slogans and put them somewhere that people in your church community will see them.

## Ask God

- To help you to remember the problems that girls are facing
- To help you to have the courage to make your voice heard

## Home & Beyond

Ask your parents or Big Bud to help you find a way to make your voice heard for the International Day of the Girl. Use one of these suggestions or create your own ideas.

- Write an article for your local newspaper or school newsletter
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<http://www.gorillaprint.com.au/promo/clothing>

<http://www.t-shirt-printing.com.au/>

<http://www.teejunction.com.au/> (design your own online)

<http://www.theprintbar.com/>

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