Safe Car Wash
Sunday school activities

Explain to the children that today are going to talk about modern slavery in hand car washes. Modern slavery is when someone is forced to do a job that they don’t want to do. Some people are forced to work in hand car washes when they don’t want to. They have to clean cars all day but they don’t get paid properly for their work.

INEQUALITY GAME

Hide 30 tennis balls around the room before the Sunday School session (if you have a large group you may want to increase this number). Split the children into two teams and tell them that for each ball their team finds they will get one sweet or chocolate each (or a different, non-edible prize!).

Get each team to sit in a line and put a bucket at the top of each line. Each team can send one person at a time to find a ball, and as soon as they have found a ball and put it in their bucket, the next person can go. Give them 2 minutes to find as many as they can.

At the end of the game, count up the balls, counting out the prizes at the same time. But before you give the teams their prizes, tell them that there are a few costs that they need to pay first.

You provided the balls so they will lose a sweet to pay for those, and one for the buckets too. One or two for any refreshments you are providing, remove a few more because you organised the game. Keep taking away sweets/prizes for made up reasons until there are barely any left.

Explain to the children that people who are modern slaves are often cheated out of their wages. They are promised a fair wage for their job, like the children were promised a prize, but then their employers cheat them and don’t pay them what they promised. If they complain they might hurt them to stop them. Then redistribute the sweets and say if someone has promised you a fair wage for your work and then doesn’t give it to you, you can refuse to do any more work for them.

SONG SUGGESTIONS

Heads, shoulders, knees and toes

Our God is a great big God (and he holds us in his hands)

VIDEO SUGGESTIONS

If you are able to show a video, this would be a good one to show:

What do you see?
by Unchosen
https://youtu.be/xWQBvKzaNnY
Duration: 2 minutes
**BIBLE STORY**

We’re going to look at two stories, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. These stories will show us the power of our hands and how we can use our hands to bless people, or hurt people.

In *Genesis 37*, we read about Joseph, who is one of the 12 sons of Jacob. Joseph keeps having dreams where he sees his brothers, his mum and his dad bowing down to him. Whenever he tells them about his dreams his brothers and his dad ask ‘do you really think you will rule over us’? His brothers aren’t very happy about this, and one day when they are all far away from home tending their father’s flocks of sheep, they decide to get their own back. They beat Joseph up and then sell him into slavery.

In *Matthew 19*, Jesus is teaching to a large crowd. When he finishes speaking, some people in the crowd bring their children to be blessed by Jesus. His disciples tell them to go away but Jesus stops them and says ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’ Then he lays his hands on them and prays for them.

**WAYS TO PRESENT THE STORIES**

**A PLAY**

Choose volunteers from your group to be the characters in the two stories. For the first one you would need a Joseph, a Jacob, his brothers (maybe not all 11!), and some slave owners. For the second you would need a Jesus, some parents and children, and some disciples.

Narrate the story at a slow pace, leaving gaps for the volunteers to react to the action you have given them.

**READ THE BIBLE PASSAGES**

Ask volunteers from the group to read the Bible passages.

**USING PICTURES**

Split the children into groups and ask each group to draw one of the key characters in each story.

**QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT THE STORIES**

**Why did Joseph’s brothers sell him into slavery?**

*Because they were annoyed that he thought he was better than them.*

**Were they right to do it?**

*Obviously not!*

**What do you think Joseph’s brothers should have done instead?**

**What do you think Joseph’s life will be like in slavery? How do you think Joseph felt?**

**Why do you think the disciples wanted to stop people bring the children up to be prayed for?**

*Maybe because they thought Jesus had more important things to do?*

**Why do you think Jesus stops them?**
MESSAGE

In the stories we read about people being pushed away or brought closer. Joseph’s brothers are angry and annoyed at Joseph, so they push him away and sell him into slavery. They take his freedom away from him.

The disciples think it’s a waste of time for Jesus to pray for children so they try and push the children and their parents away. They use their hands to hurt people and push them away.

But what does Jesus do? Jesus says stop pushing them away! Instead he draws the children and the crowds towards him. He lays hands on the children, blesses them and prays for them. Jesus uses his hands to bless people, and bring good things.

How are we using our hands?

PRAYER TIME

If you had been in the crowd and Jesus had prayed for you, what would you have asked him to pray for? Let’s pray for it together.

Let’s also pray for those people who we talked about at the beginning, who are in slavery like Joseph. Let’s pray for them to be freed.

CRAFT

Give each child a piece of paper and a pen and ask them to draw round their hand. Alternatively you could use a clipart template of an outline of a hand. In the middle of the hand ask them to write or draw a picture of their favourite bit from either of the stories.

Cut out the hands and arrange them in a circle on a big piece of paper. In the middle write Matthew 19:14

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”