



TeenTalk

Ethical matters

The Lifestyle section of the [TeenTalk](#) resources focuses on the personal, individual response of young people to issues around consumerism and advertising. In this section the resources raise wider ethical issues that lie behind the personal choices and responses that young people might make. These issues are often very complex and aid agencies have developed some quite superb resources for youth groups, churches and schools. This Ethical matters section identifies some of the available resources and suggests ways in which they might be used.

- We have focused our selection of resources on those available from the Christian organisations TEAR Fund and Christian Aid. However, be aware that other church and non church based charities focusing on the two thirds world such as CAFOD and OXFAM also have excellent resources and should be explored.
- Because external websites are constantly changing some of the links provided from this document may become redundant over time and that some signposted resources may no longer be available.
- Finally, some of the resources are published and may need to be ordered so it is important that preparation allows time for ordering and delivery.

Linking to Giving in Grace

The resources signposted here are extensive, very creative and will provide rich resources for many sessions for youth groups. In the immediate context of Giving in Grace it will be important to ensure that there is a flow from lifestyle through ethical matters to giving. *Our suggestion is that you choose just one of the three "Focus on .." suggestions below for this section of TeenTalk within Giving in Grace.* In addition consider the fair-trade stall as a way of translating issues into action. There is plenty of time later to revisit these excellent resources and important issues for youth groups to consider.

Websites

The [Christian Aid](#) website has youth leader resources in the [learn](#) website which also includes sections for schools and teachers which are also a useful source of information. [Global Gang](#) is the Christian Aid pages designed for 8-12 year olds with creative ideas, interactive games and hot news. [TEAR Fund](#) has a dedicated [Youth and Children](#) website; click the top level *campaigning* tab for a wealth of background information, resources and action to take. Both Christian Aid and TEAR Fund web sites will repay careful exploration.

Lift the Label

The TEAR Fund [Lift the Label](#) resource explores how consumer choices in the areas of food, fashion and finance impact the lives of some of the poorest people in the world. The book costs £7.99, a CD Rom (£5) and video (£2.50) are also available with free downloadable resources available from the site. Email: resources@tearfund.org (including your name and delivery address) or call Tearfund on 0845 355 8355.

Act Justly

The [Act Justly](#) resource is available online from Christian Aid as free, downloadable PDF documents with regular updates increasing the range of resources. This material is not intended specifically as a youth resource but there are creative ideas that that can be adapted for youth groups alongside bible study and worship suggestions.

The agree - disagree line

This simple exercise can be used as an introduction to any of the three Focus suggestions below. Make one end of the meeting room the “agree”, the opposite end is the “disagree” end. Ask the group to stand in the middle of the room and read out a number of statements. Invite the young people to move towards one or other end of the room depending on how strongly they agree or disagree with the statement. Once they have fixed a position invite individuals to say why they have chosen to be there, how they feel about the statement.

- The most important thing about a job is to make a lot of money
- It matters to me to have designer names on the clothes I wear
- So long as it is cheap I don't mind where it is made or the conditions of the people who make it
- It's no good protesting because young people cannot change anything - no one ever listens.
- People are poor in the world because they are lazy. If they really wanted to work there are jobs to be found.
- I like a good lifestyle and if the things I want damage the environment that can't be helped. The world has to end one day doesn't it?
- In life we work hard to earn our money, so it's up to us how we spend it
- Having money makes me happy; you cannot be happy if you do not have enough money.
- The more money you have, the more friends you have.
- The more money you have, the more important you are.

The three “Focus On” options

Below are three Focus options which explore one aspect of the ethical issues that lie behind the personal lifestyle choices that we make. The suggestion is that the group explores just one of the Focus options as part of Giving in Grace. Within each Focus option are suggestions of where to find the resource materials that will help leaders prepare for the session with their youth group.

Focus on Trade

Background information about trade issues is provided by [TEAR Fund](#) and [Christian Aid](#). and full details on the [Fairtrade Foundation](#) website..

- Christian Aid have a list of youth and children's resources on trade [listed here](#) including:
- **Trade rules are Nuts!** is a now out of print Christian Aid resource. However, the [Trade Rules are Nuts! web page](#) has a number of useful links in the Resource Toolbox including an extensive youth session which offers a very full session for youth groups including a useful sketch on fair trade.
- **Trading Trainers**, a simulation game for secondary school age groups
- The Tear Fund published resource **Lift the Label** has a full session on trade issues (pages 21-23) and another on fair trade (pages 38-40). This material would provide for a full and varied youth group session.
- Act Justly [Session Five](#) on Trade Justice has useful ideas and bible passage to study

Focus on fashion

The issue of fashion and clothing is one of the key focus areas of the Tear Fund [Lift the Label on Fashion](#) which provides extensive background information and creative ideas for youth sessions

- **Quiz:** some vital statistics about fashion and trade could be used to create a simple quiz..
- **Lift the label: Image** (page 10ff) has a number of exercises some of which could supplement the Trainers activity.
- **Lift the Label: the video** is a useful 10 minute overview of the conditions faced by workers who make

expensive designer clothing.

- The ***Why do I Shop?*** activity in the first Lifestyle session of TeenTalk could be used to lead into a Bible study based on Amos 8:5-6 using material from Tear Fund.

Focus on debt

World debt is a complex issue that frequently appears on the news as the UK has taken a most positive and welcome lead amongst the G8 group of countries.

- **Act Justly Session 3** offers Bible reflection on the law of the Jubilee and the commands to cancel debts every 50 years. Page 4 of Act [Justly session 3](#) has this Biblical reflection, a short quiz. (Please note this is an old link to a Christian Aid resource which cannot be accessed now from navigation within the Surefish website)
- **Christian Aid** produce a collection of sketches called [Just Acting](#) (£7.99) which includes a debt sketch
- **Lift the Label:** this Tear Fund published resource has a full session on international debt (pages 24-26). It features a debt game which lasts around half an hour with some additional material. It also makes reference to an interactive CD ROM *President for a Day* which was awarded a top five place as educational software for secondary schools. As president of a fictional African country players make decisions about development and face up to why countries end up in debt. This could be a useful game for a small youth group. Order via www.tearfund.org or ring 0845 355 8355

A fair-trade stall

One practical thing a youth group can do to turn their thinking into positive action is to run a fair-trade stall at the church after a Sunday Service. The Harvest festival might be a very useful focus for this kind of event. There may well be local church members generating interest in fair trade who can help or a local fair trade shop. If no local help is available the [Fairtrade](#) organisation has advice on what fairly traded products are available. A fair trade stall could also be developed to include a range of fair-trade crafts. Email enquiry@tearfund.org or ring 0845 355 8355 for a list of local Tearcraft representatives who can provide stalls. [Traidcraft](#) is the UK's leading fair trade organisation and the website is a mine of information on fair trade issues and can add to the material outlined above. If successful the fair trade stall idea could be repeated perhaps once per half term. In particular future action could focus on [fair-trade fortnight](#). A further possibility for action is to promote a [fair trade policy in the local church](#) A group of young people could share what they have learned at the PCC and put forward positive proposals for becoming a fair trade church. Young people could also encourage their [schools](#) to become fair trade centres.