

# KID'S

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## ministry



Community of Christ

## GOD OF ALL LIVING- Activities

### PURPOSE:

- Identify the difference between living, dead and non-living
- Define Zion and see what it means in scripture
- Develop skills on how to use the *Doctrine & Covenants*
- Identify ways we can contribute to making Zion possible

ACTIVITY	TIME (ESTIMATES)	RESOURCES
<b>Section 1:</b> What is Living	3 minutes	
<b>Section 2:</b> Living, dead and non-living	15 minutes	<b>Option 1:</b> Images or pictures <b>Option 2:</b> Bags to collect items <b>Option 3:</b> Collection of items and pictures
<b>Section 3:</b> Painting Living	15 minutes	<b>Option 1:</b> Paper, paint, collect sticks to use as brushes <b>Option 2:</b> Paper, paint, paint brushes <b>Option 3:</b> Paper, crayons
<b>Section 4:</b> Zion	5 minutes	
<b>Section 5:</b> D&C/ Community of Christ Sings and Zion	15 minutes	<b>Option 1:</b> 'What is Zion' worksheet (appendix), <i>Doctrine &amp; Covenants</i> <b>Option 2:</b> 'Living Zion' worksheet (appendix), <i>Community of Christ Sings</i>
<b>Section 6:</b> Conclusion	5 minutes	

### LEADING INSTRUCTIONS:

*Read through materials before you start and ensure that everything is printed, and activities prepared ahead of time*

*Parts in bold are to tell or ask the group or children. Some answers are provided in case the group doesn't get there*

*Italics is instruction for the leader*

*Recommend doing Section 4 while the group is doing Section 3*

*Several activities have variations, do what is best for your group*



## Section 1

# WHAT IS LIVING?

### DISCUSSION:

#### 1. WHAT MAKES SOMETHING LIVING OR ALIVE? WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF LIVING THINGS?

*Don't provide any answers, let the group come up with their own definitions. They will use this in the next section. (Note answers to refer back).*



## Section 2

# LIVING, DEAD AND NON-LIVING

### ACTIVITY:

To categorise things as living, dead, non-living or unknown and then identify some of the characteristics of living things.

**Option 1:** Get the group to sort a collection of images (taken from newspaper/ magazine/photos) into living, dead, non-living or unknown.

**Option 2:** Get the group to go outside and collect (or note down) 5-7 items each they have found or seen. E.g leaf, car, rock. Go through the collection determining if things are living, dead or non-living or unknown. Put them in different groups. *You don't have to go through every item especially if the kids have multiple "who had a flower? Living, dead or non-living?"*

**Option 3:** Combination: bring in both a combination of actual items and pictures from newspapers/ magazines/photos. Have the group determine if things are living, dead, non-living or unknown.

Looking at these created groups

### DISCUSSION:

#### 1. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF LIVING THINGS?

*\*made of cells, grow, reproduce, use energy, expel waste, respond to stimuli (move, grow towards light),*

## 2. WHAT ARE THINGS THAT ARE DEAD?

*\*things that were once living but are no longer. Eg. A leaf off a tree, a feather, an apple (this could get tricky as the seeds are living)*

## 3. WHAT ARE THINGS THAT ARE NON-LIVING?

*\*things that were never living. Eg a car, fire, a rock (some of these may also be tricky as they can have the obvious characteristics of something living E.g movement)*

## 4. DOES ANYTHING NEED TO SWAP GROUPS? IF SO WHY?

*Go through the unknown collection and try to sort them now.*



### Section 3

## PAINTING LIVING

#### ACTIVITY:

Painting living with once living.

**Option 1:** Use sticks as paint brushes to create a picture of something that is living.

**Option 2:** Apply paint to different types of leaves and use these as stamps or imprints to create a picture.

**Option 3:** Bark rubbings. Do bark rubbings on different types of trees to observe different types of texture.



### Section 4

## ZION

In Community of Christ we don't often focus on what happens after we die. Our theme today is God of All Living. We believe that God is a God of all living and challenges us to find ways to bring and live out the Kingdom of God where we are every day rather than waiting till we die. "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." This process of bringing the Kingdom of God to earth is often referred to as "Zion".

## DISCUSSION:

1. HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THE WORD ZION?
2. WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS TO BRING THE KINGDOM OF GOD ABOUT ON EARTH?
3. WHAT DO YOU THINK LIVING ZION WOULD LOOK LIKE?

### Section 5

## D&C OR HYMNS AND ZION

**Option 1:** There are many places in the *Doctrine and Covenants* that can help us to understand what Zion is like or how we can bring it about on Earth. Some scriptures talk of a physical place where Zion will be created. Those written more recently describe Zion as characteristics that can help us live in harmony. Look up the scriptures and complete the table.

'What is Zion': See appendix

*If there are too many scriptures (or a young group) focus on \* ones first. There is an answer table at the end if needed.*

### DISCUSSION:

#### 1. WHAT DO YOU THINK LIVING ZION WOULD LOOK LIKE?

**Option 2:** There are many places in the *Doctrine and Covenants* that can help us to understand what Zion is like or how we can bring it about on Earth.

You are called to create pathways in the world for peace in Christ to be relationally and culturally incarnate. The hope of Zion is realized when the vision of Christ is embodied in communities of generosity, justice, and peacefulness. 163:3a

There are also many hymns in *Community of Christ Sings* that help us to understand how we can bring the Kingdom of God to earth and live in Zion. Look up, CCS 364 'Lord, Make us Instruments' and CCS 285 'For Everyone Born,' and complete the table to see examples of living out Zion.

'Living Zion': See appendix

### DISCUSSION:

#### 1. WHAT DO YOU THINK LIVING ZION WOULD LOOK LIKE?

# CONCLUSION

Remembering that living things are more than just people and God is God of all living.

## DISCUSSION:

1. WHAT CAN YOU DO TO TRY AND BRING ABOUT ZION OR THE KINGDOM OF GOD ON EARTH?
2. WHAT IS ONE SPECIFIC THING YOU CAN DO THIS WEEK TO TRY AND BE PART OF ONE GLOBAL FAMILY OR SHARE FOR THE COMMON GOOD?
3. WHAT IS ONE SPECIFIC THING YOU CAN DO THIS WEEK TO TRY AND BE PEACEABLE?
4. WHAT IS ONE SPECIFIC THING YOU CAN DO THIS WEEK TO TRY AND BE GENEROUS?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER:

God of all living,

We praise you with every cell in our bodies. We thank you for the creativity and diversity that exists in our world, with some many different types of living things. Help us to bring about your kingdom on Earth. Help us to be generous, loving and peaceful with each other and all living things.

Amen

## WHAT IS ZION?

Practice looking up scriptures in the *Doctrine and Covenants* (D&C) to see what Community of Christ says about Zion

Scripture	What it says of Zion or how to live as Zion
*D&C 36:2h	
D&C 128:8c	
*D&C 161:6b	
D&C 162:1b	
*D&C 163:3a	
D&C 164:9b	
*D&C 165:2f	
D&C 165:6a	

# LIVING ZION

Look up the words of these hymns, in *Community of Christ Sings*, to see what Community of Christ identifies with in striving to create and live in Zion

Hymn	What does this say in relation to creating or living Zion
CCS 364 "Lord, Make Us Instruments"	
CCS 285 "For Everyone Born"	



OPTION 1 ANSWERS

<i>Scripture</i>	<i>What it says of Zion</i>
<i>D&amp;C 36:2h And the Lord called his people Zion, because they were of one heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness;</i>	<i>That the people were of one heart and mind. And lived righteously</i>
<i>128:8c living and acting honestly and honorably before God and in the sight of all men, using the things of this world in the manner designed of God, that the places where they occupy may shine as Zion, the redeemed of the Lord.</i>	<i>Living and acting honestly and honourably. Show good stewardship over the world.</i>
<i>161:6b. Heed the urgent call to become a global family united in the name of the Christ, committed in love to one another, seeking the kingdom for which you yearn and to which you have always been summoned. That kingdom shall be a peaceable one and it shall be known as Zion.</i>	<i>One global family Committed to love Peaceable</i>
<i>162:1b. Listen to the Voice that echoes across the eons of time and yet speaks anew in this moment. Listen to the Voice, for it cannot be stilled, and it calls you once again to the great and marvellous work of building the peaceable kingdom, even Zion, on behalf of the One whose name you claim.</i>	<i>Peaceable kingdom</i>
<i>163:3a. You are called to create pathways in the world for peace in Christ to be relationally and culturally incarnate. The hope of Zion is realized when the vision of Christ is embodied in communities of generosity, justice, and peacefulness.</i>	<i>Called to create pathways for peace Communities of generosity, justice and peacefulness.</i>
<i>164:9b When your willingness to live in sacred community as Christ's new creation exceeds your natural fear of spiritual and relational transformation, you will become who you are called to be. The rise of Zion the beautiful, the peaceful reign of Christ, awaits your whole-hearted response to the call to make and steadfastly hold to God's covenant of peace in Jesus Christ.</i>	<i>Live in sacred community. Peaceful.</i>
<i>165:2f Sharing for the common good is the spirit of Zion.</i>	<i>Sharing for the common good</i>
<i>165:6a. Beloved Community of Christ, do not just speak and sing of Zion. Live, love, and share as Zion: those who strive to be visibly one in Christ, among whom there are no poor or oppressed.</i>	<i>Live, love and share.</i>

OPTION 2 ANSWERS

<i>Hymn</i>	<i>What does this say in relation to creating or living Zion</i>
<i>CCS 364 "Lord, Make Us Instruments"</i>	<i>Sow love in hatred, don't judge others, speak for peace in war, listen to the oppressed and respond, help others see and bring awareness to the darkness (unpleasantness), support those that are grieving Stand up for peace and be active in the pursuit of justice</i>
<i>CCS 285 "For Everyone Born"</i>	<i>Everyone is welcome and included, with access to the basics (food, water, shelter, safety), equality for all men and women, old and young, feeling valued and a sense of belonging irrespective of age, seeking and giving forgiveness and reconciliation, seeking justice, compassion and peace for all</i>