

# The Knife Angel - Worcester

## 1 - 31 March 2022

The National Monument Against Violence & Aggression, also called The Knife Angel is being hosted in Worcester during March 2022. Here are some suggestions for engaging your youth group with the topic of knife crime.



### Prayer

*Dear Lord,  
We thank you that you know  
what it means to confront evil  
in the world.*

*May we follow your example  
and show love to our enemies,  
and peace in times of conflict.*

*Change our hearts and minds.*

*Be with us as we seek to be  
changed and to change the  
world around us.*

*That Your Kingdom may come  
and Your will may be done.*

*In Jesus name,  
Amen.*

### OPENERS:

#### Game: War!

##### You will need:

Sheets of newspaper, the same amount for both teams. A whistle (or loud voice).

##### Task:

Throw newspaper balls at the opposing team, and after 60 seconds the team who have the least amount of newspaper on their side are the winners.

1. Divide the group into two teams and create a dividing line between them.
2. Give out the newspaper and allow the groups 2 minutes to prepare their ammunition (newspaper balls).
3. Countdown to start. After 60 seconds, blow the whistle or yell stop and declare a winning team!

The game ended when someone in authority (leader) called time and declared a winner. If the leader had not ended the game after one minute, what might have happened next? Draw out other potential endings such as: one group quits the game or both groups give up in exhaustion and agree to a truce. Alternatively, the conflict could go on forever...

One way that authorities aim to end conflicts is through an amnesty – where both sides in the conflict are pardoned for their actions, a peace is brokered, and they lay down their weapons. Suggest that the group does this by collecting up all the newspaper ammunition for you!

### Angel Craft

##### You will need:

Spaghetti, Marshmallows you could provide mini, normal and large.

##### Task:

Using the provided spaghetti and marshmallows, create an Angel. The angel must be free standing. Points could be awarded for: How angelic it looks, how much your angel represents a warrior angel, the stability of the angel, or the height of your angel.

### WARMING UP:

#### Quiz

Questions based on the Knife Angel and the knife crime. You can either use the separate PowerPoint to show your group the questions and answers, or you can download the pdf and read the questions to your group.

#### Popcorn

##### You will need:

Popcorn kernels, and a way to heat them.

##### Using the popcorn kernels make some popcorn:

 <https://youtu.be/BX8X914wNRc>

How To Make Perfect Stovetop Popcorn | Easy Kids Recipes | Kidspot

A kernel of popcorn is hard and would break your teeth if you tried to eat it uncooked. Add some heat and the kernel becomes soft and transforms to popcorn. Just as the popcorn has changed, also the knife angel represents the transformation of weapons into a piece (or peace) of art.



## Worship song suggestions:

### *I raise a hallelujah*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FRo7kFl7hBw>

### *Way maker*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ZRwn\\_Thg2Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ZRwn_Thg2Q)

### *Made New*

<https://youu.be/jd4qtmDGIWQ>

### *Nothing / Something*

<https://youtu.be/K069mzFQnxc>

### *Renew my mind*

<https://youtu.be/3pibMrXSqp4>

### *Graves into gardens*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KwX1f2gYKZ4>

## Reflection Activities:

Listen to a worship song while engaging in either:

Colouring – Romans 8:17

Colouring – Romans 12:21

or Wordsearch.

## Taking it Further:

Web links doc

Questions for more discussion

## GO DEEPER:

### Bible passage: Romans 12:14-21

#### Intro / background

Paul is addressing a church that is brand new and still trying to find its balance, so he writes them a letter. In this section of Paul's letter to the Romans, Paul knows that rough patches are ahead for them and so he gives them tools to use while they face these issues.

He hasn't yet visited them but is passing on some helpful instructions. Instructions he feels, probably from experience, they need to know as they begin to experience pressure, from both outside and inside of the church in Rome. He is keen for them to know that there are better ways to react when they, followers of Christ, face difficult times.

#### Read the Bible passage

#### Discussion

Paul is saying that as Christians we need to be radical in our loving by being genuine in our empathy, by doing all we can to live in peace with others and refusing to seek to get even with anyone, trusting God for vindication.

*Sometimes we are in situations where this could be hard and dangerous: who would you turn to for help?*

In our normal day there are plenty of times where our tempers start to flare or where we are maybe not sincere in our congratulations when someone does well – especially when we think we deserve the praise. These are situations where we can use Paul's tools.

*So, what makes you angry?* Maybe it feels like someone has the ultimate superpower in pushing buttons which make you say and do things that you really didn't mean. Things which later you wish you could take back.

*But how else are we supposed to react? Especially when someone is so annoying or hurtful?*

Looking at Verse 21 Paul encourages the new Christians in Rome in this way: **"Don't let evil conquer you. Conquer evil by doing good."**

So rather than letting our anger control us God wants us to respond by doing good. That can be so hard but is the right thing to do and is what God wishes for us. God knows we only destroy ourselves by plotting the destruction of those who hurt us. When we plot or even get our revenge we are co-operating with evil, we are becoming evil rather than being love. Even though it is hard we need to follow the lead of Jesus. By responding with love, rather than reacting with evil, we show others that there is a different way to live. That our life has been transformed by knowing God. By constantly showing love who knows maybe others can hear the Good News of Jesus and hopefully experience his transformative love. It can be hard to know how we can help those who have been overcome by evil. One of the things we can do, as Christians, is to pray for them.

## RESPONSE

**You will need:** Post it notes, pens.

**Task:** Pass out post-it notes or index cards to everyone in the group. Ask them to write down 1 area in their lives that they need to respond with love and have everyone put their cards/notes in a box / large envelope that is in the front of the room. Once everyone has put in their card, seal the envelope or box. Hold it up and offer a prayer and a blessing.

**You will need:** Newspapers and glue/tape.

**Task:** As a way of praying for others you could use newspaper cuttings of crime, to create paper chains, when you have enough links, attach them into a circle each person holding a piece of the chain, pray for all those who are involved with or affected by crime. Ask God to intervene in transformational ways – then break the paper chain.