



Week 2 - A Vision for Justice

December 13, 2020

Group Discussion Guide

Begin with 5 minutes of silence + prayer (7-10 minutes)

Why silence? Our world is so busy and distracted, with technology filling in any gaps in between. With all that moving, it can be hard to hear others and hear the voice of God. As we gather together, let's press pause and enter into a moment of quiet so we can hear what God is saying to us and through others.

Once you've sat in silence, each acknowledging each other's presence and God's presence, centering yourselves on Him, have someone pray to open your time together.

Read this overview (1 minute)

It's always good to look forward and hope for clarity (as we started in 2020), but in reality, it's typically looking back that we see with the greatest clarity. Using Isaiah, we'll look at the story of God's people in crisis and calamity and how God turns their tragedy (exile) into blessing (purification/refining). Through the eyes of faith, God refocuses our vision to see compassion, justice, hope, joy, and renewal.

This week we're focusing in on having a vision of justice.

Scripture + Debrief in small groups (30-40 minutes)

Split your group into smaller groups to read the following Scriptures and go through some of these questions:

- Have you ever had a moment in life where something "unjust" happened to you? Where you exclaimed, "That's not right! That's not fair!" What was it? How did it make you feel?
- When you hear the word "justice," what comes to your mind? What images or ideas does that word conjure up for you?
- Do you think justice is important to God? Why or why not?

- Take turns reading the following passages: **Isaiah 1:16-17; Isaiah 58:1-4, 5-9; Amos 5:24; Micah 6:8; Psalm 37:27-29.**
- Why is justice important theologically? For a brief foray into this theme, check out [The Bible Project's video on justice](#).
- In Sunday's message, Dan said pointed out that for the early church, justice consisted of 5 key areas:
 1. Equality for all people
 2. Commitment to the poor
 3. Protection for children
 4. Conservative sexual ethics
 5. Love for enemies

Which of these areas is closest to your heart? Why?
- In Dan's sermon he said that often times secular people want the "Kingdom without the King," while religious people want the "King without the Kingdom." What did he mean by that? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
- Which options in the previous question do you tend to emphasize most in your life – the King (Jesus) or the Kingdom? What needs to happen for you to lean healthily into both?
- What does "doing justice" look like for you in your immediate context?

Transition back to one large group (20 minutes)

Ask a few questions about each person's time in their smaller groups:

- Which questions did you discuss in your smaller groups? What were some the things that came from your smaller group discussions?
- How can we as individuals and as a group practice compassion?

Finish with prayer (10 minutes)

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.