



Do Justice, Love Mercy

*Exploring God's concept
of justice in today's world*

*Leader's Guide to accompany
Do Justice, Love Mercy by Seth Pierce*

Copyright © 2016 by North American Division Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists.

All rights reserved. No portions of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, scanning, or other—except for brief quotations in critical reviews or articles, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Available from *AdventSource*

5120 Prescott Avenue

Lincoln, NE 68506

402.486.8800

www.adventsource.org

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture passages taken from the New King James Version.

Published by *AdventSource*, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Cover and Layout by Nick Sharon.

The Resources for Spiritual Growth and Other Voices sections of this guide are taken from the broader Christian community. They are not intended to imply the endorsement of teachings of the individual quoted.

ISBN 978-1-62909-198-3

Printed in the United States

Do Justice, Love Mercy

*Exploring God's concept
of justice in today's world*

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	iv
About iFollow	v
Tips for Success	vii
Chapter One	
<i>A Sense of Justice</i>	1
Chapter Two	
<i>Jesus' Favorite People</i>	6
Chapter Three	
<i>Luke and the Least</i>	11
Chapter Four	
<i>1-800-Justice</i>	16
Chapter Five	
<i>The Beggar and the Tax Collector</i>	20
Chapter Six	
<i>Justice League</i>	25

Acknowledgements

Something as massive and comprehensive as the iFollow Discipleship Resource doesn't just "materialize" in our consciousness. It spent years in people's minds before the real work began, and then it has gone through many hands in its development and bringing to market.

We wanted to acknowledge those who have been involved all along, citing what each person contributed. But the most we can do in the space we're allowed is list them, recognizing that we will almost inevitably leave some out who deserve mention.

From the earliest days, we need to list Monte Sahlin and Paul Richardson—from the Center for Creative Ministry—Gerry Chudleigh, Dan Savino, Jere Wallack, and Kermit Netteberg (who were all from the North American Division or from the NAD Church Resource Center). We also need to mention Debra Brill, who has been part of the process all along. From the iFollow Taskforce, we need to add Loren Siebold, Dave Gemmell, and Meredith Carter. And, finally, the entire Mind Over Media team, led by Ray Tetz, who helped us bring the resource to completion.

We also want to acknowledge all the advisory team members, writers, and editors who have been a part of this process, both those who worked on what became the iFollow Pastor's Edition and those who worked on the iFollow Discipleship Series books—both the authors and those who wrote or identified what we've come to call "the donut," the surrounding material.

Good work, all. For some, we thank you for your vision to attempt something new and "game-changing." For others, we thank you for your tenacity, sticking with the work even when it was in obscurity and with far too little pay. And we thank you, the reader, for staying on us to get it done, and for your eagerness to try something new and somewhat different from what the church typically offers.

Dan Day

Executive Editor, iFollow Series

About iFollow

The iFollow series is designed to help individuals grow as disciples in a group setting. Discipleship falls into several areas of focus, demanding a wide palate of conversation. In order to assure that the iFollow series is broad enough and flexible enough to serve the needs of various congregations, we've created a set of categories into which the books are developed. These include:

- Journey
- Discovery
- Witness
- Church Life
- Leadership

About This Title

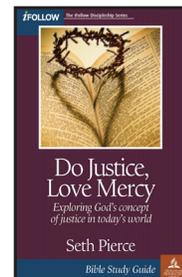
When thinking of the term “justice,” some people might picture a courtroom, handcuffs, a police car, or maybe even a jail cell. Some may even think of Marvel Comics’ “Justice League,” complete with superheroes in their colorful spandex and capes.

But what does “justice” mean when it’s used in the Bible? How does God see to it that justice is served? And since we all have sinned and fall short of God’s glory, what does He call us to do in the name of justice for this broken world?

This leader’s guide includes all of the information you need to start and lead a small group through *Do Justice, Love Mercy*:

- Step-by-step instructions for getting started
- Detailed information on how to lead a group
- Tips for conducting meetings
- Discussion questions for each chapter
- Spiritual growth activities
- Media resources
- Web links
- And more!

Do Justice, Love Mercy will lead you through Scripture to discover the different meanings and applications of Godly justice. This Bible study aims to ignite a powerful spark within each of us to spread the Gospel and God’s message of peace and healing to the world.



Order Participant Bible Study Guide from adventsource.org
402.486.8800
or your local Adventist Book Center

iFollow & Adventist Fundamental Beliefs

The iFollow series is structured around the 28 fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It provides a way for people to experience, study, and discuss various beliefs. *The Unbelievable Beatitudes* includes study and discussion that will strengthen members in the following fundamental beliefs:

- The Son
- Growing in Christ
- Great Controversy
- Holy Scriptures
- Stewardship
- Christian Behavior
- Unity in the Body of Christ
- The Church
- The Remnant and Its Mission

By including our beliefs throughout this series participants will experience these beliefs not as standalone doctrine, but as an integrated part of their growth as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Who Can Use This Resource?

Who might benefit from this series? What settings are these study guides intended for? Here are some possibilities:

- An elder of a local church looking for a resource to lead a prayer meeting group that meets once a week in your church
- A small group leader looking for a new curriculum
- A Sabbath school class
- A leader of a home Bible fellowship
- Anyone who wants to deepen their walk with God

This guide will help you as a small group leader understand the value of “group life.” It will lay the foundation for beginning a group and keeping it going.

Tips for Success

Group Dynamics

An intimate small group has many benefits to the Christian struggling to connect with God on a personal level. For one thing, it provides a sense of accountability. Some Christians need a friend or two to look them in the eye each week and ask, “How’s it going with your walk?”

Others need to practice methods and ideas among friends. They need to hear others’ stories of success and failure. They need to experiment and grow with a group. They need to gain knowledge and perspective from fellow Christians and they need encouragement when they feel like giving up.

As you lead your small group, keep in mind that Christ works through three primary means to help us grow: the Holy Spirit, the Word, and through God’s people. Each of these work together to impact our growth in Christ. The Holy Spirit speaks to our minds and hearts directly (see 1 Cor. 2:6-16). The Bible is a primary means of giving us instruction, correction, and reproof, etc. (see 2 Tim. 3:16).

The Value of a Focused Group

How does a leader help ensure that the group doesn’t simply become a social club? Group focus is key to not only experiencing fellowship as a group, but in specifically growing in your devotional life outside the group.

Let’s begin by asking, “Why come together?” We learn together to love God more deeply and love one another more authentically. Matthew 22:37-38 teaches us that the greatest commandment of Scripture is summarized in this dual-direction of loving—upward and outward, loving God and loving each other.

This iFollow discipleship resource will give you a clear focus for your group. By agreeing that your focus will be to become more Christlike (Romans 8:29) through strengthening the inward disciplines each person will grow as a disciple of Jesus.

Starting a Group

Establishing a strong foundation before you begin a small group can make or break the experience for everyone involved. The following is intended to be a quick reference list and is not meant to be exhaustive. You can find excellent books and seminar material giving greater depth on starting small groups.

Motivation Check

God plants passions and desires in our hearts to accomplish His will. Do you have an interest in getting a small group together? Why? What do you want to have happen? Are you willing to learn? Are you willing to explore new ways to hear God’s voice? Reflect on your motivations and/or needs.

Groups that begin simply to give a teacher an opportunity to teach or a leader an opportunity to lead are shallow ground for laying a foundation. Deep values make a strong foundation. If you feel convicted to begin a group, bring that conviction before God in prayer. Ask Him to cleanse your motivations and fill you with His will for beginning a group.

Leadership Support

Talk with your local church leadership. It's a great way to clarify your reasons for starting a group. Sit down with your pastor or head elder and explain what is on your heart. The act of talking through your ideas can sharpen your focus.

Outline your plans. Share when, where, how long you plan to meet, and what materials you might use. Show the study guides you plan to use, along with this leader's guide. And ask for prayer and support. You may even go so far as to suggest your church choose a leader or point person to encourage a small group ministry in your church.

By keeping in contact with your local church leadership, several things will happen. You will potentially receive their support, encouragement, and prayers. They will be better prepared to deal with criticism or attacks on your group if you keep leaders apprised of your plans.

Find a Partner

A crucial step is finding a partner. This kindred spirit should be someone with the same passion you have to begin a small group. By praying for, finding, and meeting with this person, you can begin to build a plan for a group meeting.

Don't neglect this step. There are many benefits to having a partner. This individual may be an apprentice who learns under your leadership or it might be a peer. Having an assistant takes pressure off you and provides balance in the group's ebb and flow. It also gives you a back-up leader if you cannot attend a group meeting.

Materials

Make sure you review the participant guide. Have a complete copy on hand, and become familiar with the overall approach and content. When you invite people to join your group you are in a far better position to compel them to join if you are familiar with the participant guides.

Invite People to Join

How do you build a group? Where do you begin? There are two general approaches: the personal invitation and the general announcement. Both work—though a personal invitation may bring together a more predictable number. If you use the general announcement approach (in the church bulletin, from the pulpit, in the church newsletter, etc.), we encourage you to use a sign-up sheet or online survey. This way you can plan on the numbers and have enough booklets on hand to lead the group.

What about group size? Small group theories vary on exact numbers. Some suggest no more than 12. Others recommend groups get into 4's for deeper sharing. Five to 12 people are recommended for the dynamics of a group to allow people to fully interact.

When too many people join a small group, the opportunity for everyone to share is limited. Don't be afraid to have a cut-off number (12, for example). If there is enough interest, begin a second or third group.

Conducting Group Meetings

How do you conduct group meetings? Here's a quick list to get you started. These suggestions are meant to be adapted to the unique circumstances and needs of your group.

The Meeting Place

A small group can meet at the church, in a park, or perhaps in a lunchroom or other private location at work. But the home atmosphere is conducive to group life. There's no place like home for group control.

As the leader, find a host or hostess to provide a place to meet. Since the leader will be dealing with the details of group time, sharing the responsibility of hosting gives someone else in the group a sense of belonging and purpose. Invite the host to provide light refreshments. Arrange seating so that everyone is on the same level, and in a circle so everyone can see each other.

Childcare arranged before the meeting is a tremendous benefit. Have childcare in a place other than the host's home since it will cut down on interruptions to the group. Perhaps a teenager can care for children in one of the other member's homes.

A rotation basis might be used in sharing this responsibility as well as providing refreshments. Stick with one meeting place for the duration of the meeting. Otherwise people might forget the location of the evening's meeting and precious time can be wasted driving to the wrong house.

Formatting Your Meetings

The format you choose may vary. This series suggests the following elements:

- Arrival/refreshment time
- Welcome
- Prayer
- Review/overview of chapter
- Discussion questions (included in leader's guide)
- Spiritual growth activities (included in leader's guide)
- Closing prayer

Some groups include music. Others may want to meet for a meal (potluck style), but this could become a barrier to some who may not have time to prepare anything.

First Session Details

We recommend meetings last 60-90 minutes. People need a chance to get acquainted, enjoy light refreshments, and get settled before starting. Make time for this informal settling in. But choose a formal starting time and stick with it. Time flies in small groups. Make the final decision on time frames as a part of your group's covenant.

A Group Covenant

Clarification of the group's purpose is helpful to its direction and success. Taking time to talk about the goals of your small group (deepening our personal walk with Christ) will give members a sense if this group is for them. The first meeting can be a trial event to give guests a chance to politely bow out. Ask for a commitment through a card or personal contact after the meeting. Don't corner people into making a public commitment. They may bow under pressure, but never really commit. Often the track record of attendance will reveal this when they quit coming.

You may make up a group covenant beforehand or with the group. It might read something like: "I commit myself to attending every session (excepting emergencies) of this group, with plans to meet every Tuesday evening from 7:00 to 8:30 in the months of February, March, and April. I also make a commitment to read each lesson before all meetings."

Is a group covenant necessary? There are several benefits to this step. People know what to expect. Set dates and let people know there is an ending to this group. A covenant also motivates people to show up. We tend to stick by plans we verbalize and commit to on paper. Some group members may want to write their commitment statements inside their study guides.

Ground Rules

Before you formally begin meeting as a group, a few ground rules will help for a smooth flow. These suggestions can help prevent conflict, embarrassment, or inappropriate behaviors that might disrupt a group or hurt someone's feelings.

- a) **Confidentiality.** Talking to those outside the group about things discussed in the group breaks the bond that holds the group together. Respect the thoughts of others and don't share them outside the group. Of course you will discuss some things with others, but be careful. If you are not sure about an issue, ask. People in the group will not be open if they have to worry about having their dirty laundry hung out for everyone to see.
- b) **Time.** You will do your group members a big favor by agreeing to start and end on time. It is not thoughtful to others to stretch times. People have personal schedules. Babysitters may be waiting. Others may have early appointments. You can always say, "I'll stay by for a little while if you want to talk more about that issue" or "Call me tomorrow."
- c) **Silence.** No person should ever feel obligated to share at any time. If a person feels uncomfortable responding to a question, other group members should respect that person's choice to remain quiet. A simple way for this person to respond is, "I'll pass on that one" or "I'd rather not share right now."
- d) **Criticism.** Some group members may struggle with giving lots of advice, even judging others. This is a great way to destroy a group. We recommend a leader never tolerate one person criticizing another in a group. Emphasize a focus on "ideas" rather than "John's idea." Remember: listen always, only share advice when asked, and never judge others.
- e) **Interrupting.** Establish a rule that no interrupting is allowed. Some members are so talkative they will not allow others to get in a word. Leaders may need to gently interrupt a talkative person as a means of giving others a chance to share. A leader may talk to an overly talkative attendee outside a meeting to gently remind them of the group's purpose to help everyone grow.

Discuss these rules and consider voting on them. Ensure complete buy-in from every group member. It will help avoid surprises or hurt feelings.

Tips for Success

Here are some simple tips for helping your group maximize the benefits of their time together. This list is not exhaustive, but provides a brief gathering of suggestions that can help you as a leader.

- a) **Cycles.** Groups go through cycles. Examples of these include periods of resistance to leadership, times of deep bonding, initial distrust, superficial sharing, frustration with the flow, etc. Your group may move back and forth between stages. This is normal.
- b) **Breaks.** Don't encourage members to commit to the group forever. Each iFollow book has six chapters, so before you start the next book you can give people the opportunity to drop out or new members to join.

- c) **Agendas.** Some people join groups but do not commit to the purpose of the group. They have an agenda and see the group as an opportunity to press their views. We recommend a direct and firm approach in dealing with these types of people. It may be best to talk with them outside the group and let them know they have a right to speak about their interest, but the group has chosen a different topic.
- d) **Anger.** It is possible, given the nature of small groups and the vulnerability of members, that someone is going to get angry. Anger is an acceptable emotion that can express itself unacceptably. Attacking others, regularly using foul language, banging objects, and shouting are not acceptable in a group. Gently respond to an angry member by suggesting they use “I” messages instead of “you” messages. “I feel angry when...” vs. “You make me feel angry....” “You” messages put others on the defensive and the angry person avoids owning their feelings.
- e) **Superficiality.** Some groups never seem to break through to deep levels of sharing. There is hesitancy and a shallow level of sharing on a facts level vs. feelings, opinions, and needs. This may occur because the trust level of the group has not thoroughly developed. Some ideas for this include: allowing time for trust to develop, reviewing the questions asked in the group, being vulnerable as a leader, and assessing attitudes in the group that might hinder trust (i.e. a critical or judgmental spirit, lack of confidentiality, etc.).

When You Need Help

Sometimes a group leader is overwhelmed by a difficult situation and does not know where to turn. Difficulties arise in the group that seem beyond the leader’s ability to deal with the problem. The forces of evil are certainly at war against God’s people gathering to grow spiritually. When the going gets tough, what can you do? Where do you go for help?

- a) Remember, these group members are not just your people; they are God’s people. You are not alone in caring for your group members. The Lord is by your side doing wonderful things in the hearts of these members. Claim Bible promises for strength, wisdom, and discernment in leading your group. Pray for members by name in your personal devotional time.
- b) Recognize the value of spiritual gifts in the body of Christ. As a group leader, you do not have all gifts. Lean on other members in the group. Some may be more discerning than you. Let their insights be a guide. Others may have spiritual wisdom. Allow their ideas to show the way. If the group faces a difficulty, use care and bring it up in the group. Pray together about problems.
- c) Look for appropriate support or help outside your group. Some churches request group leaders meet in their own group for encouragement and training. Meet as needed with a spiritual mentor, pastor, or elder in your church. Seek advice as needed from those with more experience than you. This may lead to a phone contact to someone with a specialty in dealing with the challenge you face in your group.
- d) Sometimes changes need to take place in the group structure. A person may need to leave. A volatile situation may require an individual to join another group. Reconciliation may need to take place outside group time. Occasionally a group leader discovers another person in the group might be the best person to lead while they assist. Don’t think of this as stepping down. Affirm spiritual gifts in your group. If you are attempting to lead a group but have better gifts at hospitality, be the host or hostess and allow someone else to lead if God brings this person to your group.
- e) Study and educate yourself by attending training classes on small group leadership. Look for books, DVDs, seminars, or conference on training group leaders. You are a valuable asset to the body of Christ. Take care of your gifts by developing them for the glory of God.
- f) Avoid burnout. Take care of yourself as a group leader. Don’t run too many groups in a row. Take breaks. Perhaps it would be best on occasion to join a group and NOT be a leader in order to be fed, gain new strategies, and feel less pressure. There is no glory in being a workaholic in the church. Be balanced.

Master or Slave?

A final thought on the use of resources: some people become so engrossed in a resource that they become enslaved to it. The resource becomes the master, not the tool.

Use this iFollow resource as a tool and recognize its limitations. There will be times in a small group when the next discussion question is not nearly as important as listening to the member whose husband just left her, or the man whose father just passed away, etc. Be sensitive to the leading of the Spirit in your group.

Chapter One

A Sense of Justice

Each of the participants in your group should have read the chapter and done the Bible study for this week. After a welcome and prayer, provide a short overview as you get started to make sure everyone begins at the same place.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was your first memorable exposure to evil? How did you react?
2. What has been the single biggest influence informing your sense of right and wrong?
3. From the beginning, God placed “enmity” between humanity and Satan. However, examples abound of people either ignoring, or not seeming to possess that “enmity.” What reasons can you give for this? How might a person restore than sense of “enmity” once it’s been lost?
4. In what ways to do feel different cultures have similar values in defining right and wrong? In what was are they different?
5. When you are unsure of something’s moral quality how do you go about studying the issue in order to make an informed decision.

An In-depth Group Discussion Idea

Pick a current news story involving a criminal case, or civil unrest and have the group weigh out the various elements involved to determine who is at fault and how the situation should be treated.

Fundamental Belief #8 Great Controversy

All humanity is now involved in a great controversy between Christ and Satan regarding the character of God, His law, and His sovereignty over the universe. This conflict originated in heaven when a created being, endowed with freedom of choice, in self-exaltation became Satan, God’s adversary, and led into rebellion a portion of the angels. He introduced the spirit of rebellion into this world when he led Adam and Eve into sin. This human sin resulted in the distortion of the image of God in humanity, the disordering of the created world, and its eventual devastation at the time of the global flood, as presented in the historical account of Genesis 1-11. Observed by the whole creation, this world became the arena of the universal conflict, out of which the God of love will ultimately be vindicated. To assist His people in this controversy, Christ sends the Holy Spirit and the loyal angels to guide, protect, and sustain them in the way of salvation



A Sense of Justice

Personal

1. Share a time when you personally experienced a sense of injustice? What did you do with that feeling?
2. How have you typically responded to the evils of the world (i.e., natural disasters, wars, tragedies, etc.)?
3. How do you feel about making an argument for the existence of God by using the presence of evil?
4. In discussing the concept of “sin” with people unfamiliar with the term, how might a discussion of “shalom” (peace) create more dialogue? How can we frame injustice as a disturbing of the peace?
5. Where and when did you receive your ideas of justice and injustice?

Scriptural

1. Explore 1 Corinthians 13:1-10.
 - a. In this letter Paul states that it is his third time speaking to this wayward church—and he has witnesses. What does this say about how we should approach justice in terms of confronting evil?
 - b. How do you think prayer affects someone’s sense of justice? (see v. 7)
 - c. What do you think Paul means about God not being “weak” but “strong” in dealing with the Corinthian church? (vs. 1-4).
2. Look at Matthew 23:23 and Luke 11:42.
 - a. How is it possible for someone to practice religion and neglect justice?
 - b. Compare these verses with Amos 5:18-24. How are they different? How are they similar?
 - c. What are a few lessons from Israel’s history that challenge our modern expressions of faith?



3. Ellen White makes the following statement, “Strength to resist evil is best gained by aggressive service.¹ Compare this statement with Jesus’ experience of being tempted, and His response, in Matthew 4:10; and His teaching in Matthew 6:24.
 - a. Do you feel Ellen’s statement fits with Jesus’?
 - b. How does service increase our capacity to sense right from wrong?
 - c. How can someone know if they are serving the right “master”?

Practical

1. List three ways you are practicing justice right now:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. List three ways in which people can dull their sense of justice:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
3. List three ways how people can increase their sense of justice:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
4. Write a biblical definition of justice in your own words:

¹ The Acts of the Apostles, 105



Media Resources

◆ Books

Lewis, C. S. *Mere Christianity: A Revised and Amplified Edition, with a New Introduction, of the Three Books, Broadcast Talks, Christian Behaviour, and Beyond Personality*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2001

This classic work outlines the basic arguments for an inherent sense of morality in human beings. Readable, and full of practical illustrations, this is a great book to begin with when exploring moral philosophy from a Christian perspective.

Keller, Timothy J. *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*. New York: Dutton, 2008

Notes for his ability to reach Millennials in the heart of one of America's most secular cities (New York), Keller is a successful pastor that doesn't shy away from the hard questions. This book covers a wide range of those questions, including the problem of evil, in a very readable format. While he does argue for a traditional view of hell, and rather weakly, the other chapters are quite helpful.

Plantinga, Alvin. *God, Freedom, and Evil*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1977.

This book is for left-brained eggheads. While it is an extremely important work, it is quite technical and analytical. A great read for those who love logic and can follow arguments. It is fairly inexpensive, so even if one doesn't follow all the arguments in the book, there will be a few items to glean



Web Links

With sample excerpts from the website

◆ Web Resources

<https://www.cslewis.com/us>

This is the official website of the C.S. Lewis estate. On this site you will find a variety of essays dealing with morality and justice. This is great fodder for discussions and personal growth.

<http://rzim.org>

This is the official website of Ravi Zacharias—noted Christian philosopher and apologist. This site also contains numerous articles dealing with morality and issues involved in justice and the character of God. Video presentations are also available.

<http://www.reasonablefaith.org/william-lane-craig>

This is the official website of William Lane Craig—renowned moral philosopher apologist. Craig's writings are a bit more technical and are great for logicians and rhetoricians. Again, great articles, videos, and debates on a wide variety of subjects.

Chapter Two

Jesus' Favorite People

Each of the participants in your group should have read the chapter and done the Bible study for this week. After a welcome and prayer, provide a short overview as you get started to make sure everyone begins at the same place.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who are your favorite people, that you know personally, and why do you like them? Who are your least favorite people (it may be a good idea to change their name depending on the situation) what makes it difficult for you to be around them?
2. How can we learn to love people we don't necessarily like without coming off as inauthentic or patronizing?
3. Share a time when you felt like one of the "least" and how people helped you overcome that feeling—or how you are still grappling with that feeling.
4. In Jesus' day the least were non-Jews (Gentiles), tax collectors, children, prostitutes, and lepers. Who are the modern examples of the "least" and what does the church do to avoid them? What does the church do to include them?
5. Look at Luke 9v48. How are we to help the least if we are to become the least? How should we apply this verse?

Fundamental Belief #4 The Son

God the eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ. Through Him all things were created, the character of God is revealed, the salvation of humanity is accomplished, and the world is judged. Forever truly God, He became also truly human, Jesus the Christ. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived and experienced temptation as a human being, but perfectly exemplified the righteousness and love of God. By His miracles He manifested God's power and was attested as God's promised Messiah. He suffered and died voluntarily on the cross for our sins and in our place, was raised from the dead, and ascended to heaven to minister in the heavenly sanctuary in our behalf. He will come again in glory for the final deliverance of His people and the restoration of all things.

An In-depth Group Discussion Idea

What event or activity could your group plan to minister to those typically considered the "least?" Brainstorm a few ideas and then make plans to do it.



Jesus' Favorite People

PERSONAL

1. List your top five criteria for your favorite people:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.

2. List your top five criteria for your least favorite people:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.

3. Can you think of a type of person who might rank low on someone's favorite list—but high on yours?



SCRIPTURAL

1. Explore the story in Luke 18:9-14.
 - a. Compare the Pharisee's attitude to that of Jesus—then compare the status of the Pharisees to that of Jesus. What are the differences?
 - b. Knowing that tax collectors were viewed with contempt—and often for good reason—how was the taxman forgiven and the religious leader not?
 - c. What do think “trusted in themselves that they were righteous” means in terms of social justice?
2. Read Matthew 5:17-20 where Jesus speaks of the “least” in His kingdom. Compare this statement with the two most important commandments in Matthew 22:37-40.
 - a. How do these two statements relate to justice?
 - b. Does Jesus imply that people who don't practice the commandments will be in His kingdom—even if they are just the “least?”
3. Read Psalm 84:1-3 and Luke 12:4-7.
 - a. What are the implications in these passages for a follower of Jesus concerning the least?
 - b. How can the first part of this verse, which is rather stark, be of comfort to someone who feels oppressed?

PRACTICAL

1. In all of your acquaintances whom do you consider the least? How can you do one thing to encourage them this week?
2. Are there times when we are permitted to ignore the “least?” Or, are there times when the traditional means of helping them with money, time, or food wouldn't be helping?
3. How can churches better associate with those in need of justice? Think of three “hands-on” ways to connect with those in need:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.



Media Resources

◆ Books

Medearis, Carl. *Speaking of Jesus: The Art of Not-evangelism*. Colorado Springs, CO: David C Cook, 2011

The best book I have ever read on sharing the gospel. This book provides some very practical ways to engage people outside of our Christian bubbles. Full of stories, and challenging Bible study, this book should be in your library.

Manning, Brennan. *The Ragamuffin Gospel*. Sisters, Or.: Multnomah Publishers, 2000

While Brennan can border on the mystical in places, this particular book provides several concrete examples of loving people who don't have it together and may be viewed with contempt. It is an affirmation of God's love and grace for those society deems unlovable. Powerful stuff in here.

Stassen, Glen Harold, and David P. Gushee. *Kingdom Ethics: Following Jesus in Contemporary Context*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2003

This is a textbook—but an interesting one to read. Covering a wide variety of ethical issues, with Bible study, this book is an invaluable resource for engaging social issues that concern everyone. The section on the Sermon on the Mount is particularly intriguing. Another must have book for your library.



Web Links

With sample excerpts from the website

◆ Web Resources

ilikegiving.com

This is a phenomenal website, with a corresponding book, dedicated to linking people up with opportunities to give to those in need. All you do is enter an interest such as “cars” or “school” and it will set you up with an opportunity to help someone in that area. Some great stories here as well.

TED Talk Video “The Bottom Billion”

https://www.ted.com/talks/paul_collier_shares_4_ways_to_help_the_bottom_billion

This is a video presentation dealing with world poverty and how we can help them. Worth and watch and a discussion.

<https://adra.org>

This is the website for Adventist Development and Relief Agency. Not only are there scores of opportunities to help the “least,” but also stories and statistics about what is going on in the world. Another great resource for involvement, inspiration, and discussion.

Chapter Three

Luke and the Least

Each of the participants in your group should have read the chapter and done the Bible study for this week. After a welcome and prayer, provide a short overview as you get started to make sure everyone begins at the same place.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are the top three “themes” a Christian should have operating in their life? How do they look when in operation?
2. How do you practice being inclusive in your life? Where do you struggle with being exclusive—intentionally or unintentionally?
3. Given that Luke was a doctor, writing to a wealthy Gentile patron, yet focused on the “least”—what kind of person do you envision him being? What must a follower of Jesus do to become someone who can connect with both rich and poor?
4. Are there times when we need to separate ourselves from the least?
5. Some Christians intentionally move to low income neighborhoods in order to restore them. Should this be the aim of every Christian?

Fundamental Belief #1 Holy Scriptures

The Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God, given by divine inspiration. The inspired authors spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. In this Word, God has committed to humanity the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are the supreme, authoritative, and the infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the test of experience, the definitive revealer of doctrines, and the trustworthy record of God’s acts in history

An In-depth Group Discussion Idea

Have everyone write down the top three “themes” of their life, then have everyone else write down what they think that person’s themes are. See if they match. If don’t tactfully, this can be a great growth opportunity. Best done with a group that has had a chance to get to know each other a bit.



Luke and the Least

Personal

1. What would you describe as your life's "theme"?
2. If you were to write a Gospel, what facet of Jesus' life would you seek to emphasize?
3. If your life is a living Gospel, who are the members of your audience? Are you intentional about the way you live your life in front of certain people?
4. Think of three people who inspire you and write the Christ-like themes their lives communicate to you:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

Scriptural

1. In Luke 1:1-3 we see the Gospel addressed to a wealthy Gentile (non-Jew). How does Luke's intended audience, followed by an exploration of society's "least"—give us a clue as to the purpose of his writing?
2. Luke is also the author of Acts. Initially, Luke's Gospel and Acts were meant to be read together. Notice how Luke writes of the Holy Spirit's work in Acts 2:1-12.
 - a. What kinds of people are present at Pentecost?
 - b. What does the Spirit do among these people?
 - c. How does Luke's description of Pentecost in Acts 2 tie in with his themes in his Gospel?
3. Read Luke 4:16-30.
 - a. Jesus is citing Isaiah 61:1-4. Read this passage and note the passage that Jesus leaves out of His sermon. Why would He leave this out?
 - b. What do you think offended the people so badly they would try to throw Jesus off a cliff?
 - c. How should Jesus' first sermon in the synagogue influence modern preachers at church?



Practical

1. Ask a trusted friend to write out the three major themes they see being lived out in your life.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

2. Luke records parables of inclusive feasts. Who could you invite to dinner at your house that isn't within your usual circle of friends?



Media Resources

◆ Books

Nichol, Francis D. *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary: The Holy Bible with Exegetical and Expository Comment*. Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1953.

Volume 5 contains the commentary on Luke. While a little dated, this work still provides a good perspective, not only on the themes of Luke; but on the various passages dedicate to uplifting those themes. Very readable, and easy to use, most Adventists have a copy of this in their library.

Gaebelein, Frank E. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: With the New International Version of the Holy Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Pub. House, 1976.

A theologically conservative commentary on scripture—and one that has a bit more depth in the area of language than the SDA Commentary—this work will add some great insights in your exploration of the Gospels. The best place to buy a set, or a single volume, is either cbd.com or abebooks.com.

Talbot, Elizabeth Viera. *Luke: Salvation for All*. Nampa, Idaho: Pacific Press Pub. Association, 2011.

Adventist theologian Elizabeth Talbot explores the book of Luke in a dynamic, and short, little book that readers will find easy to use. This would make a great handout for a small group as the book isn't that expensive and can be purchased at www.adventistbookcenter.com.



Web Links

With sample excerpts from the website

◆ Web Resources

101 Ways to Feed Hungry and help Poor

<http://www.riverministry.com/540046>

A practical webpage with a bunch of ideas for helping those living in poverty. This is a good resource for a small group project.

Poverty Stats

<http://www.compassion.com/poverty/poverty.htm>

A resource that helps put out complaints about money in perspective. Sometimes in the West we are insulated against real suffering and poverty (not that we don't have it here, but it isn't as visible to many people) and this can be a good reminder that not everyone has it as easy as we do.

Liberation Theology Articles (controversial)

<http://liberationtheology.org/articles/>

While Liberation Theology has several philosophical underpinnings that do not resonate with Adventist theology, the articles here are great for stimulating discussion. This site would be great for developing some discussing about striking a balance between helping those in need; but also recognizing that our efforts ultimately won't save the world.

Chapter Four

1-800-JUSTICE

Each of the participants in your group should have read the chapter and done the Bible study for this week. After a welcome and prayer, provide a short overview as you get started to make sure everyone begins at the same place.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Go around the group and have everyone share the first image that pops into their head when you say the word “justice.” Have them explain why they think that particular image comes to mind first and if it has a place within a biblical model.
2. “Righteous acts” in scripture denotes saving actions. Have you, or any of your friends and family, ever been part of a saving action or intervention? It may not be as dramatic as parting the Red Sea—but you stepped into an uncomfortable situation and helped bring about a positive change. What happened?
3. Have you ever chosen to suffer with someone? How does the idea of compassion (literally “co-suffering”) apply to justice?
4. Do some people suffer deserve it? How do we blend law and grace in a way that offers people forgiveness/redemption but doesn’t enable them to make choices that bring about suffering? When we see a perceived enemy suffering, how are we to respond—keeping Jesus words to “love your enemy” in mind. Is it ever a good idea to let someone suffer?
5. How can the church practice discipline (censure, disfellowship/removing of membership) and remain restorative?

An In-depth Group Discussion Idea

Hop on YouTube and search for Judge Judy, To Catch a Predator, or a Cops episode. Watch it and discuss whether or not the images, language, and ending resonates with biblical justice, or if it misses the mark—and why.

Fundamental Belief #11 **Growing in Christ**

By His death on the cross Jesus triumphed over the forces of evil. He who subjugated the demonic spirits during His earthly ministry has broken their power and made certain their ultimate doom. Jesus’ victory gives us victory over the evil forces that still seek to control us, as we walk with Him in peace, joy, and assurance of His love. Now the Holy Spirit dwells within us and empowers us. Continually committed to Jesus as our Saviour and Lord, we are set free from the burden of our past deeds. No longer do we live in the darkness, fear of evil powers, ignorance, and meaninglessness of our former way of life. In this new freedom in Jesus, we are called to grow into the likeness of His character, communing with Him daily in prayer, feeding on His Word, meditating on it and on His providence, singing His praises, gathering together for worship, and participating in the mission of the Church. We are also called to follow Christ’s example by compassionately ministering to the physical, mental, social, emotional, and spiritual needs of humanity. As we give ourselves in loving service to those around us and in witnessing to His salvation, His constant presence with us through the Spirit transforms every moment and every task into a spiritual experience.



THE PERSISTENCE OF LOVE

PERSONAL

1. What metaphors come to your mind when you hear the word “justice?”
2. Should “justice” involve punitive measures, restorative measures, or both?
3. What need does a punitive model of justice fill in people’s hearts? Is this need godly or another product of a broken world?
4. What areas of our judicial system do you feel best reflect the biblical ideal?
5. Is being fair and doing what is right always the same thing? Think of how people justify pirating digital media.

SCRIPTURAL

1. What picture of justice do you get in Deuteronomy 10:12-22?
2. Reflect on the imagery in Micah 3:1-12.
 - a. Certainly violence such as this exists in the world—but how might less physically violent applications, no less intense, manifest themselves?
 - b. How much of the end of this prophecy simply reflects the natural outcome of not practicing justice?
3. Read Daniel 1:1-2.
 - a. What do you think the author meant by the Lord handing over His people to a foreign power?
 - b. Does this handing over reflect a God wanting to get even with His people, or something else? Compare with the description of Israel in Jeremiah 23:9-22.

PRACTICAL

1. In what way can you personally practice a restorative act this week?
2. How might you present the idea of biblical justice to someone who equates justice with violent retribution?



Media Resources

◆ Books

Stevenson, Bryan. *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. Spiegel & Grau, 2014

This incredible true life account will challenge, frustrate, and inspire you. Set in the deep south, lawyer Bryan Stevenson dedicates himself to representing the marginalized and falsely accused. Much of the book is spent trying to get clients off death row, exploring various relationships between oppressed/oppressor, and pointing out biases and shortcomings within our judicial system. A modern *To Kill a Mockingbird*, this book is well worth the read.

Brown, Nathan. *Do Justice: Our Call to Faithful Living*. Signs, 2014

This book is a collection of essays, written by Adventists, on the subject of social justice. While some have found the theological biases of SDA theology frustrating (Amazon reviews) this is an important book for those adhering to Adventist faith who want to practice justice within their worldview.

Chan, Francis, and Danae Yankoski. *Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God*. Colorado Springs, Colo.: David C. Cook, 2008

Chan has become the embodiment of a Christianity that takes Jesus call to love the least seriously. This book explores God's love in a way that challenges complacent American Christianity and calls it to do something more sacrificial and meaningful. The book is easy to read, contains numerous stories, and provides some good biblical talking points.



Web Links

With sample excerpts from the website

◆ Links

Perverved Justice FAQ

<http://www.perverved-justice.com/index.php?pg=faq>

This is the website for the nonprofit organization that helps law enforcement capture sexual predators. It was featured in Dateline's To Catch a Predator and has been controversial for many reasons. In the FAQ section there are a variety of intriguing questions and explanations about how what they do carries out justice. One statement that is worth a discussion is:

"We are civilized individuals and you can do more with the power of scorn than you can of fists."

TED Talk Mother and daughter doctor heroes

https://www.ted.com/talks/mother_and_daughter_doctor_heroes_hawa_abdi_dego_mohamed

This is an inspiring video of two women making a difference in Somalia—a place known for civil war and oppressing women. They opened a clinic and a school dedicated to creating peace. Instead of fighting, they are healing—what lessons can we learn from this?

Juvenile in Justice Gallery

<http://www.cbsnews.com/pictures/juvenile-in-justice-photo-project-captures-kids-behind-bars/>

This is a powerful, and provocative, series of photographs depicting juveniles in prison. Many of the pictures have quotes, or sound bytes about the young inmates. Take time to absorb the pictures, and to reflect on the stories they tell. What might be done to help some of them—or prevent young people from ending up in jail?

Chapter Five

The Beggar and the Tax Collector

Each of the participants in your group should have read the chapter and done the Bible study for this week. After a welcome and prayer, provide a short overview as you get started to make sure everyone begins at the same place.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Go around the group and have everyone share a time when they have been oppressed and then they have been the oppressor.
2. Looking at Daniel chapter 1, do you think this scenario makes a case for God using an oppressive power to teach people dependence upon Him? Look at Romans 8v28—how might this temper the idea that God uses oppressive forces to develop people’s trust in Him?
3. Some Adventists love to point to the Medieval Christian Church as a huge source of oppression. How does the modern church, even Seventh-day Adventist, engage in oppressive behaviors? What can be done to change this?
4. I once had a conversation with stewardship guru Dave Ramsey and asked him how to network in my local community. One of the suggestions he gave was creating an appreciation dinner for local business people—not to ask for money, but simply affirming their dedication to giving the community positive goods and services. Ramsey said he has been surprised at how many successful business people feel alienated from the church because they have even successful—as if somehow being rich/successful is unspiritual. What do you think of this idea? Why might financially successful people feel unspiritual?
5. What are practical ways we can elevate the status of a person? In Jesus’ day people greeted important guests while they were “a long way off”—what do we do?

*Fundamental Belief #14
Unity in the Body of Christ*

*Fundamental Belief #22
Christian Behavior*

*Fundamental Belief #21
Stewardship*

An In-depth Group Discussion Idea

Reflect on the community in which you live and try to come up with who people may view as an oppressor. How can you affirm this person/group of people without condoning the behavior?



The Blind Man and the Tax Collector

PERSONAL

1. Do you typically have more sympathy for the oppressed or oppressor?
2. List three obstacles preventing most people from empathizing with an oppressor:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
3. Have you ever, for all intents and purposes, told someone in need to “shut his or her mouth?” (not necessarily in those words). What motivated your actions?
4. Reflect on a time you were put in a position to elevate someone you initially felt didn’t deserve it?
5. List three obstacles preventing people from empathizing with the oppressed:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

SCRIPTURAL

1. Look at Ezekiel 18:32. How does this apply to our dealings with perceived oppressors?
2. Read Matthew 12:41-44—then read verses 38-40.
 - a. How do the additional verses change the meaning of the story of the “widow’s mite?”
 - b. How does this reflect an unintentional reading of scripture that has the potential to favor oppression?
 - c. How might this verse be used to promote faithfulness without extortion?



3. Matthew 18:15-20 is a popular verse encouraging Christians to resolve interpersonal conflicts. Read the verse and consider the following:
 - a. How is one to be treated if they do not listen to the church?
 - b. How did Jesus treat these kinds of people?
 - c. What was Matthew's profession? (see Matthew 9:9). How does this help explain how we are to approach those guilty of sinning against someone else?

PRACTICAL

1. In what area of your life have you placed the oppressor? How might you make it right—or at least give evidence that you have changed?
2. In what areas of life have you been discouraged to stop crying out to Jesus? How can you take steps to work past the discouragement and continue to call on Him?



Media Resources

◆ Books

Lawrence, Rick. *Shrewd: Daring to Live the Startling Command of Jesus*. Colorado Springs, CO: David C Cook, 2012

While not as strong as it could be, this book nevertheless introduces a dialogue about a concept many Christians would feel uncomfortable with: being shrewd for Jesus. The author looks at how Jesus intends us to practice shrewdness and contrasts it with how unethical persons have used it. Great for discussion.

Lapin, Daniel. *Thou Shall Prosper: Ten Commandments for Making Money*. 2nd ed. Hoboken, N.J.: John Wiley & Sons, 2010

Written by a Rabbi, this book explores the issues of money and power in unconventional ways. At times it teeters close to a prosperity gospel, but never quite “goes there.” Definitely a challenging book for non-Jews who are unfamiliar with how Judaism views money and business. Some excellent history, theology, and philosophy (and stories) about how to use power/money to benefit all.

Nouwen, Henri J. M. *The Inner Voice of Love: A Journey through Anguish to Freedom*. New York: Doubleday, 1996

Nouwen has been controversial in some Adventist circles—yet this book really focuses on his personal story from an academic at an Ivy League school to working among the developmentally disabled in virtual obscurity. The story is challenging, and the perspective important in an American culture fraught with materialism.

Northrup, Solomon, and Sue L. Eakin. *Twelve Years a Slave*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968

This is a powerful first-person autobiography of a freedman who was taken as a slave for twelve years. The narrative explores the abuse of power, hope, courage, and righteous deeds of those who worked to free Mr. Northrup. Also an award-winning film, this true story will inspire and provoke people to action and reflection.



Web Links

With sample excerpts from the website

◆ Web Resources

TED Talk “Our Century’s Greatest Injustice”

https://www.ted.com/talks/sheryl_wudunn_our_century_s_greatest_injustice

This is a stimulating video about injustice and what can be done to change it. This is a great international perspective involving the treatment of women in China—and the response from wealthier nations has had an effect on it. This may be a good illustration, not only for how we can become involved internationally, but how we can apply the same principles locally.

How To Really Help the Poor and Downtrodden (controversial)

<http://www.randygage.com/how-to-really-help-the-poor-and-downtrodden/>

This is the blog of a prosperity proponent arguing something many would consider controversial. Both the blog, and the comments section, provide some great discussion points.

Equality Now <http://www.equalitynow.org>

A great website dedicated to equality. This site is full of stories, issues, articles, and opportunities to make a difference.

Chapter Six

Justice League

Each of the participants in your group should have read the chapter and done the Bible study for this week. After a welcome and prayer, provide a short overview as you get started to make sure everyone begins at the same place.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. DC Comics created its Justice League by gathering together all the superheroes in their universe (Superman, Batman, The Flash, Wonder Woman, etc.) in order to beat up whatever villain happens to be attacking innocent people. They live in a fortress located in outer space called the Watchtower. How does this differ from the church? Find at least three differences (think location, abilities, roles, methods, etc.).

Fundamental Belief #12
The Church

Fundamental Belief #13
The Remnant and His Mission
2. What reasons/issues do you think play into humanity creating “superheroes”?
3. How do churches become indifferent to those needs of the community around them? What does the process look like?
4. Do you have a context that you live out your faith or does it tend to be more of an intellectual experience?
5. Adventists tend to proselytize by using a series of meetings dedicated to sharing proposition truth—rooted in the prophetic books in the Bible such as Daniel and Revelation. However, can we find within these books, principles to practice justice alongside our propositional prophetic truth? Check out Daniel 2v24; 9v1-19 and Revelation 2-3 for starters. Is there a way to integrate opportunities to practice justice within our prophecy series?

An In-depth Group Discussion Idea

Select a group member’s local church and assess whether it is operating like a biblical Justice League, or something else. What might be done to help it change its focus?



Justice League

PERSONAL

1. List three reasons you feel cause churches to forget about social justice?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. Can you think of any reasons a church community might feel threatened by becoming involved with issues of justice?
3. Who do you know that you would consider a “James the Just?”
4. What area of social justice does the church need more of a presence in—but may be controversial to some?

SCRIPTURAL

1. Christian subcultures, and even scripture itself, consider Sodom and Gomorrah to be the perfect example of depravity. Reflect on Genesis 18:19-29.
 - a. What insight do we get from Abraham’s arguing with God?
 - b. If angels do not fear to tread on Sodom and Gomorrah’s ground in order to find people to save—what should that tell us?
 - c. What insights can we gain from the handling of Lot’s family by the angels? What kind of intervention principles can we establish?
2. In the early development of the church, a fight over social justice broke out. Read Acts 6:1-7 and answer the following:
 - a. What ministry does this story point to that the modern church can practice?
 - b. What leadership principles can be seen at work in the story that should be at work in the local church?



3. Read Acts 4:32 and then 2 Thessalonians 3:10.
 - a. How can these two texts offer balance against abuses within a system designed to make sure everyone has enough?
 - b. Where do you see imbalances in the modern church community (locally, denominationally, and inter-denominationally) that contribute to people not having enough?

PRACTICAL

1. What is one change you could introduce to your local church community to help them practice justice?
2. What types of justice projects would attract people you know who have no interest in attending church?



Media Resources

◆ Books

Maslon, Laurence, and Michael Kantor. Superheroes!: Capes, Cowls, and the Creation of Comic Book Culture, 2013

A fun history, full of cultural insights, of the comic book industry in America. While many may write this off as “fluff” it is well researched, has a corresponding documentary, and provided fascinating insights into hero ideology, social justice, and how minorities used the medium of comic books to establish themselves in foreign lands.

DeYoung, Kevin, and Greg Gilbert. What Is the Mission of the Church? Making Sense of Social Justice, Shalom, and the Great Commission. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011

A contemporary look at how to maintain a biblical stance in relationship to social justice, so one doesn't drift into humanism.

Cannon, Mae Elise. Social Justice Handbook: Small Steps for a Better World. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Books, 2009

Blake, Chris. Swimming against the Current: Living for the God You Love. Nampa, Idaho: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2007

Written by a well known Adventist author, this follow-up book to Searching for a God to Love, challenges the reader (through very short, punchy chapters) how to live in way that glorifies God and reveals His love. A great book, easy to read, and worth picking up just for the stories and creative writing.



Web Links

With sample excerpts from the website

◆ Web Resources

www.change.org

This is a website dedicated to creating positive change by using online petitions. While not all causes are equally worthy, many of them are—and even include Adventist issues. Great for discussion points and involvement via social media.

Stats

<http://www.creativeministry.org/article/347/research/faith-communities-today/new-fact-information/social-justice-and-the-adventist-church>

This is a webpage giving some Adventist statistics about social justice and the church. It has a graph that may be a helpful visual for group discussion.

GYC Article

<http://gycweb.org/jesus-waits-an-adventist-perspective-on-social-justice/>

This is an article on the subject of social justice from a conservative Adventist perspective. Worth a read and a great resource for discussion/Bible study.

<http://www.worldvision.org> (vision trip)

One of the most well known organizations helping impoverished children all over the world. Many Adventist singers have adopted this organization when they perform—encouraging involvement from parishioners. Do a search for “vision trip” and let the possibilities provide an opportunity discussion and maybe some planning.

<http://www.kiva.org>

A fascinating website harnessing the power of microloans to help small businesses initiatives in developing countries get off the ground. A great site for stories and opportunities to make a difference



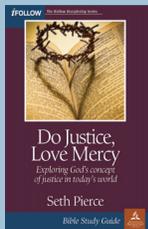
When thinking of the term “justice,” some people might picture a courtroom, handcuffs, a police car, or maybe even a jail cell. Some may even think of Marvel Comics’ “Justice League,” complete with superheroes in their colorful spandex and capes.

But what does “justice” mean when it’s used in the Bible? How does God see to it that justice is served? And since we all have sinned and fall short of God’s glory, what does He call us to do in the name of justice for this broken world?

This leader’s guide includes all of the information you need to start and lead a small group through *Do Justice, Love Mercy*:

- ❖ Step-by-step instructions for getting started
- ❖ Detailed information on leading a group
- ❖ Tips for conducting meetings
- ❖ Discussion questions for each chapter
- ❖ Spiritual growth activities
- ❖ Media resources
- ❖ Web links
- ❖ And more!

Do Justice, Love Mercy will lead you through Scripture to discover the different meanings and applications of Godly justice. This Bible study aims to ignite a powerful spark within each of us to spread the Gospel and God’s message of peace and healing to the world.



Bible Study Guides for participants are available at adventsource.org

