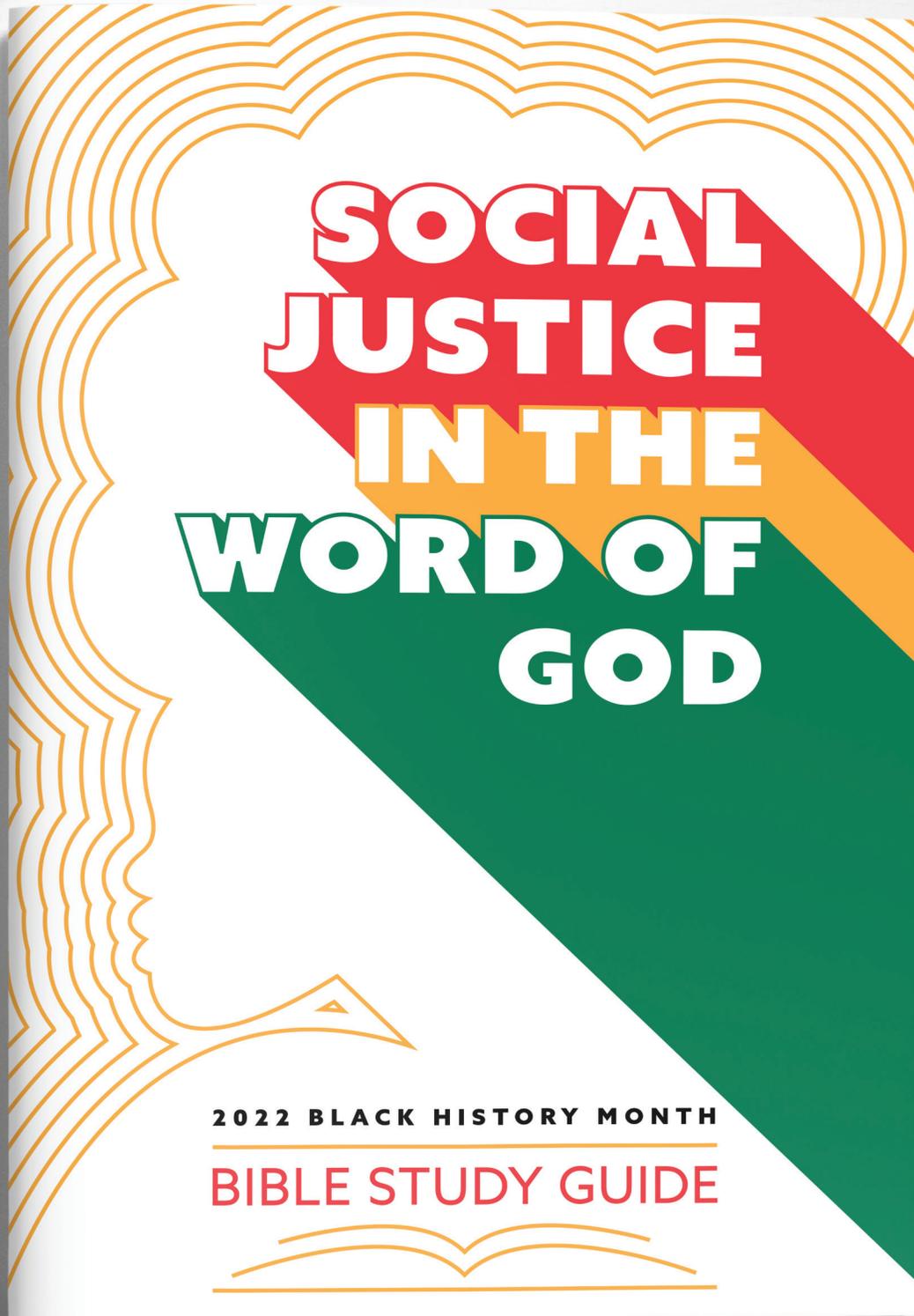


SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE WORD OF GOD | 2022 BLACK HISTORY MONTH

BIBLE STUDY FACILITATOR'S GUIDE



Introduction

The facilitator of these lessons should not assume that all one's students are under-informed in regard to social justice. On the other hand, you should rightly assume that even those who know or sense the error of "Rendering asunder" what God hath put together (righteousness and Justice) will benefit from these lessons. In every case, the student should, by these lessons be reminded that the loving God of the Bible is forever distinguished as the One, "whose works are truth, and His ways justice" and the opposite of "those who walk in pride." (Daniel 4:37, NIV)

Lessons Overview and Purposes

LESSON 1—SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT - should be understood to show that "Social Justice" is not a new "post George Floyd" concept. It is rather, as this lesson demonstrates, a principle of action that God instituted and insisted His people observe throughout Israel's history. Most importantly, it applies the justice commands of the ancient prophets to our associations and responsibilities today.

LESSON 2—SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHRIST - is designed to accent the fact that Jesus' work on earth was not just "justice related" but "justice grounded!" and "justice founded!" This lesson accomplishes that by reminding how social justice, or fairness in the common every-day affairs of life, was a paramount factor in Jesus' miracles, parables, and everyday associations.

LESSON 3—SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION - is written to reveal and emphasize the intimate connection of "social Justice" and the mission of God's people during the closing scenes of earth's history. The student will be assisted in seeing how in scripture, "social justice" is fundamental to God's unchanging "covenant relationship" with humanity.

LESSON 4—A PROPHET AMONG US - reveals the concerns and counsels of Ellen White, with regard to "social justice" in both private and government relationships. The lesson emphasizes the pervasive attention in her writings to the marginalized in society. While doing so it gives clear guidance to God's people regarding their duties to aid the oppressed and also to combat the sources or causes of injustice.

Study Guide Perspectives

- *Social Justice is rightly seen as a constituent element of God's loving character.*
- *Social justice is rightly defined as the application of fairness in all phases of personal and corporate relations.*
- The union of righteousness and justice in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy is inseparable.
- The instruction that overrules "absolute obedience" to government laws (see Romans 13:3-6, 1 Peter 2:13,14) is known as, "The Principle of Overriding" (see Acts 5:29).
- Interpretation of scripture is largely dependent on one's socio-economic background, hence, the usual differences regarding "social justice" between the privileged and underprivileged.

Critical Definitions

EQUALITY: the state of having equal rights and opportunities

EQUITY: factoring into the designs of equality the effects of past and present inequality

Significant Elements of "Social Justice"

DISTRIBUTIVE - (fairness in distribution of goods, resources and opportunities)

PROCEDURAL - (fairness in formation of policies, distribution and resolution)

RESTORATIVE - (fairness in the return of goods stolen and denied)

RETRIBUTIVE - (punishment for theft and denial)

COMPENSATORY - (just compensation for loss resulting from theft and denial)

Historic Examples of Heaven-Approved Defiance of Secular Governments

- Rahab and the spies vs. the King of Jericho (Joshua 2, Heb. 11:31, James 2:25)
- Miriam vs. the Egyptian government (Exodus 1: 15-25, 2: 1-8)
- Elijah vs. the governance of Ahab and Jezebel (1 Kings 18:18-21)
- Esther vs. the decree of Ahasuerus (Esther 3-10)
- Daniel vs. the Babylon government (Daniel 6:8-16)
- Joseph and Mary vs. the Roman government (Matthew 2: 13-16)
- Jesus vs. the Roman government (Luke 13:32)
- Paul and Silas vs. the Roman government (Acts 4:18-21 16: 35-37)
- The German Princes vs. the German government (see *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 68)
- Ellen White and "The Fugitive Slave Law," vs. the United States Government (*Testimonies to the Church*, Vol. 1, pp. 201-202)

An Ellen White Summary Statement on Obedience to Secular Governments

"We are not to do or say anything that would unnecessarily closeup our way. We are to go forward in Christ's name, advocating the truths committed to us. If forbidden by men to do this work, then we may say, as did the apostles, "Whether it be right on the sight of 'God to harken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 69.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CORRECTIONS TO THE PRINTED STUDY GUIDE

- 1842 - William Foy, a Mulatto, should read William Foy, a Black man. (Page 1)
- 1843 - "Famous matron of the Underground Railroad" should read, prominent civil rights activist and the word "Adventist" should read Millerite. (Page 1)
- 1936 - Should read 1934. (Page 15)

FURTHER READING

1. *The Southern Work*, Ellen White, Washington, DC: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1966
2. *Angels in Ebony*, Jacob Justiss, Jet Printing Service, Toledo, Ohio, 1975
3. *We Have Tomorrow*, Louis B. Reynolds, Review and Herald Publishing Association, Washington, D.C., Hagerstown, MD, 1984
4. *Telling The Story*, Delbert W. Baker, Loma Linda University Printing services, Loma Linda, California, 1996
5. *Thou Who Hath Brought Us...* Vol. 1. Charles E. Dudley Sr., Teach Services, Inc. Brushton, New York, 1997
6. *Thou Who Hath Brought Us...* Vol. 3. Charles Dudley Sr., Dudley Publications, 1604 Whites Creek Pike, Nashville, Tennessee, 2000
7. *Seventh-day Adventists and the Civil Rights Movement*, Samuel G. London, Jackson, Mississippi: University Press of Mississippi, 2009
8. *The Middle Wall*, E. E. Cleveland, Review and Herald Publishing Association, Washington, D.C., 2012
9. *Social Justice*, Jonathon A. Thompson (Editor), Napa, Idaho: Pacific Press, 2017
10. *Change Agents*, Douglas Morgan, Oak and Acorn Publishing, Westlake Village, California, 2020
11. *African American Seventh-day Adventist Healers in a Multicultural Nation*, Ramona L. Hyman and Andy Lampkin (Editors), Pacific Press Publishing Association, Napa, Idaho, 2021

FOR ADDITIONAL TEACHER AIDS OR CLARIFICATION, CONTACT:

REGIONAL CONFERENCES CO-ORDINATOR

Dana Edmond 256.830.5002 // adventistregionalministries.org

PRINCIPAL EDITORS

C.B. Rock 702.334.3005 // cbrock4@cox.net

M.A. Warren 256.682.0106 // mawwword@aol.com

FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY GUIDES, CONTACT:

AdventSource 402.486.8800 // adventsource.org

