

This midweek study will explore the doctrine of God's justice. Use the following main points, Scriptures, teaching/discussion ideas, and questions to help students gain a better understanding of the essential doctrine for this session.

Essential Doctrine: God is Just

God establishes standards for His moral creatures that are in accordance with His righteousness, and they will be judged according to those righteous standards (Lev. 11:44-45; Rom. 2:5-11; 2 Cor. 5:10). It would be an injustice if God did not uphold His righteousness, because such a failure would require God to violate His own righteous character. Since humanity has sinned by failing to live up to God's righteous standards, God has taken it upon Himself to make provision by being both just and the justifier of those who place their faith in Christ (Rom. 3:25-26).

1 God is just by nature and thus the basis for all justice (Lev. 19:35-36; Prov. 11:1; Isa. 40:10).

- ▶ When did something unfair happen to you? What made it unfair? How would things have gone if the situation had been fair?
- ▶ Why do we expect things to be fair? Why shouldn't it be the case that people should be able to do whatever they can get away with?
- ▶ Imagine you journeyed to a remote island and discovered a culture that had no concept of justice; people were allowed to do whatever they wanted and could accomplish. How would you go about changing them?

Read Leviticus 19:35-36.

- ▶ What is the final sentence of this passage? How does the phrase "I am the Lord" connect to the command to be just? Who is the most just being in the universe?

Read Isaiah 40:10.

- ▶ According to this passage, what is God bringing with him? What must be true about God's character if He is bringing appropriate wages with him?

Read Proverbs 11:1.

- ▶ What does detestable mean? What is something that is detestable to you?
- ▶ The scales Proverbs mentioned were used in measuring out grain; in other words, in business transactions. How would dishonest scales favor a merchant?
- ▶ How does God feel about dishonest scales? Why is this not only wrong, but completely detestable to Him?
- ▶ What can we conclude about God's character? How might the world have been different if God had not held justice so closely?

2 The crucifixion shows how precious justice is to God (Rom. 3:22-26).

- ▶ Show students a picture of the crucifixion. Ask them to come up with a list of the attributes of God they see reflected in the crucifixion (not necessarily the picture, but in the historical event).
- ▶ How does the crucifixion show the traits you've listed?
- ▶ Did anyone come up with justice?
- ▶ Could God have simply forgiven us without sacrificing Jesus? If yes, why didn't He? If no, why couldn't He?

Read Romans 3:22-26.

- ▶ Paul was concerned with showing God's righteousness (in other words, His justice). According to verse 25, what apparent injustice had God been committing before the crucifixion?
- ▶ How did the crucifixion "correct" this injustice (v. 26)?

3 We should reflect God's justice in our lives and society (Lev. 19:15; Prov. 20:10,23; 31:8-9).

- ▶ What are some examples of things in your life that you think are unjust?

Read Proverbs 20:10,23.

- ▶ What area of life do these Proverbs address? Can you give an example of justice in business?

Read Leviticus 19:15.

- ▶ How are our current courts sometimes unjust? How did they get that way? How can we fix them?

Read Proverbs 31:8-9.

- ▶ What are some people groups who cannot speak out for the injustice they experience? What can we do to help them in the name of Jesus?

WRAP IT UP

- ▶ What is one way you value Jesus more from our discussion of justice? What can you do this week to be more just in your own life? How can you further justice in our society or world this week?