

life groups discussion guide

series: **Just Love**

title: **“A Just God”**



November 6, 2016

Big Idea: God gives justice and expects us to give it as well.

CONTENT: Micah 6:8

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

DESCRIPTION:

To love according to Biblical standards is to both speak and act in ways that show you love, which means that when you are persecuted, tempted, and on trial – “just **Love**” the other person. It also means that the strong are called by God to care for the weak, and defend their cause by giving them a voice of “**Just** love.” In this series we will look at the two opposite sides of God’s character: Justice and Love. The answer to the question in Micah 6:8 of what God wants for our lives can be summed up in two words: Just Love.

Reading

Deuteronomy 32:3-5 (NLT) - *“I will proclaim the name of the LORD; how glorious is our God! He is the Rock; his deeds are perfect. Everything he does is just and fair. He is a faithful God who does no wrong; how just and upright he is!”*

Isaiah 30:18 (NIV) - *Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!*

Psalms 146:6-7 (NLT) *He made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them. He keeps every promise forever. He gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry. The LORD frees the prisoners.*

Discussion:

Given God’s attitude to the oppressed and hungry, what should our attitude be to those same people?

Do you ever find yourself judging those in need more than loving those in need?

As described in Deuteronomy, what should we do to honor God?

How would you respond to someone who questions God's justice given the amount of hunger and poverty in the world?

Reading

Proverbs 24:11-12 (NLT) - Rescue those who are unjustly sentenced to die; save them as they stagger to their death. Don't excuse yourself by saying, "Look, we didn't know." For God understands all hearts, and he sees you. He who guards your soul knows you know. He will repay all people as their actions deserve.

James 1:27 (NLT) - Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

James 2:14-20 (NLT) - *What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds." You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless?*

James 4:14-17 (NLT) - *How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that."¹⁶ Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil. Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.*

Discussion:

Like in Proverbs 24, are there people unjustly sentenced? Do we respond to them biblically?

What are you doing to help orphans and widows? How could we help them even more?

Is your faith followed by actions? If we have faith without actions, what does that tell you about your spiritual health?

Some people are told to say a prayer or be baptized and then they are assured of salvation. Discuss this concept in light of James 2.