**Don’t Give up on Justice 1**

Take some time to watch the bible   
project video together.

<https://bibleproject.com/videos/justice/>

1. Read Leviticus 19:33-34, Exodus 23:9, and Proverbs 31:8-9. Who was vulnerable and mistreated in Israel’s society? What does God instruct Israel to do for the vulnerable and why?
2. How do you think humans' role as image bearers of God (e.g., Genesis 1:26-27) informs what the Bible says is right and just?
3. Read James 1:19-27 aloud. What is one example of how both powerful and vulnerable people might use anger to achieve justice and righteousness? What are the problems with this approach?
4. What do you think it looks like *to ‘act justly and to love mercy  
   and to walk humbly with your God’* (Micah 6:8) in our current moment?
5. How do you find yourself responding to the anger, grief and fear we see in our world and nation?
6. What do you feel prompted to pray for or do this week as a response to this conversation?

**Don’t give up on justice 2**

How has your week been?

What did you say you were going to do last time? How did it go?

***Read Isaiah 61:3 together***

*“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, “and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendour.”*

Isaiah 61:3

1. What do you notice about God’s justice in this prophecy?

In Luke’s gospel (Luke 4:16-30) the first public speaking Jesus does is to quote this passage. Interestingly he stops short of the part about vengeance.

1. Why do you think he stops where he does?
2. Why do you think the people want to kill him after hearing this?
3. What else here is an encouragement, a challenge or a mystery you want to ponder this week?
4. How do you feel prompted to pray, and to act differently after this conversation*?*

**Don’t give up on justice 3**

How has your week been?

What did you say you were going to do last time? How did it go?

***Read the letter of Philemon together.***

This short letter shows a personal example of what living differently might look like.

Paul, in prison - suffering the injustice of Roman chains, writes to Philemon - a wealthy, slave owning friend. Somehow Philemon’s good-for-nothing escaped slave Onesimus has found his way to Paul, become a life-transformed believer and is learning to be a great help to the apostle.

Under Roman law Onesimus belongs to Philemon, and is due severe punishment. Onesimus doesn’t hide or deny - he returns to his owner, with a letter from Paul asking his owner to see his slave differently. Philemon is invited to view Onesimus as Paul’s dear friend, as a brother in Jesus, as one worthy of respect and mercy.

For Onesimus and Philemon justice becomes personal. Not an abstract detached from daily reality but a series of lived out choices: return don’t hide, show mercy not anger, seek goodness not what might be yours by right.

1. Where can you see encouragement, challenge or mystery in this letter?
2. How are you able to make justice personal in your life right now?
3. How do you feel prompted to pray, and to act differently after this conversation?