

Life Group Guide: "Justice and Grace"



Opening Prayer

Key Takeaways:

1. We often cry out for justice when it benefits us but desire mercy when we're at fault.
2. Every sin is an injustice against God and often against others.
3. God promises to refine His people and deal with injustice.
4. Jesus came to face God's refining wrath in our place.
5. God's grace is unfair in our favor - we receive mercy we don't deserve.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon opens with PJ's personal story about fairness. Can you share a time when you felt something was unfair in your life? How did you respond?
2. How do you typically react when you see injustice in the world? How does this compare to your reaction when someone points out your own faults?
3. The sermon states, "Every sin I commit is an injustice against God almighty." How does this perspective change the way you view your own actions?
4. Discuss the concept of "Cost-free Christianity." In what ways might we be guilty of wanting blessings without faithfulness or obedience?
5. How does the image of God as a refiner (Malachi 3:2-3) make you feel? What does this tell us about God's character and His plans for us?

6. The sermon mentions that God's judgment can be comforting to those who have been hurt. How do you reconcile God's justice with His mercy?

7. Reflect on 2 Corinthians 5:21. What does it mean to you that Jesus took our sin and gave us His righteousness?

8. How might understanding God's grace change the way we view and treat others, especially those who have wronged us?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, when you're tempted to cry "It's not fair!", pause and consider if you're viewing the situation through a lens of justice or mercy.

2. Spend time in prayer, asking God to reveal areas in your life that need "refining." Be open to His guidance and correction.

3. Choose one practical way to extend grace to someone this week, even if they don't "deserve" it.

4. Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:21 and reflect on its meaning throughout the week.

Closing Prayer

5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide:

Day 1: God's Unfailing Love



Reading: Romans 5:6-11

Devotional: In our quest for justice, we often forget our own shortcomings. Today's passage reminds us of God's incredible love - while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Reflect on the times you've cried out for justice against others but overlooked your own faults. How does God's unconditional love change your perspective on justice and mercy? Consider how you can extend this same grace to others today.

Day 2: The Refiner's Fire

Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

Devotional: God's refining process can be uncomfortable, but it's ultimately for our good. Just as a silversmith purifies precious metal, God works to purify our hearts and faith. What areas of your life might God be refining right now? How can you embrace this process, trusting in His loving intentions? Pray for strength and patience as you allow God to work in your life, transforming you into a pure offering.

Day 3: Repentance and the Kingdom

Reading: Matthew 3:1-12

Devotional: John the Baptist's call to repentance echoes through the ages. As we anticipate God's kingdom, we're called to turn from our old ways and embrace a new life in Christ. What does true repentance look like in your life? Consider areas where you might be holding onto old habits or attitudes. How can you actively prepare your heart for God's work in your life today?

Day 4: Christ Our Righteousness

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Devotional: The great exchange of the gospel is almost too good to be true - our sin for Christ's righteousness. This undeserved gift is the essence of God's grace. How does this truth impact your view of yourself and others? Reflect on the freedom this brings and how it might change your interactions with those around you. Thank God for this incredible gift and ask Him to help you live in light of this new identity.

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Day 5: Living in God's Mercy Reading: Micah 6:6

Reading: Micah 6:6-8

Devotional: In light of God's mercy, how then should we live? Micah reminds us that God desires justice, kindness, and humility from His people. These qualities flow from a heart transformed by grace. Consider how you can actively pursue justice, show kindness, and walk humbly with God today. Pray for opportunities to reflect God's character in your interactions with others, remembering the great mercy you've received.

