



WEEK 1 DEVOTIONAL

JESUS & JUSTICE: WHY IT'S HARD TO MENTION & WHY WE MUST

RECEIVE

Read the passages on the following page: **Isaiah 30:18; Proverbs 31:8–9; Jeremiah 22:3; Psalm 146:7–9**. Read these passages slowly, thoughtfully, prayerfully. Read in such a way that you imagine the Holy Spirit is trying to speak to you. As you read the passage, journal words or phrases that stand out to you. Then go back and consider why those words and phrases caught your attention.

REFLECT

1. What word did you think of when you initially heard the title of this series?
2. When you found out what the J Word for this series was, what was your reaction? Journal through your thoughts and feelings in that reaction discerning the cause.

3. "It's impossible to separate the pursuit of Jesus from the pursuit of justice." How do you respond to that statement? Journal your thoughts and feelings.
4. "Justice is the endeavor to align our actions and the arrangements of this world with God's will for the flourishing/shalom of His creation." How does this definition of justice help or hinder your engagement with it? Reflect and journal on how you define justice.
5. What did you find most helpful from today's message? Why?
6. What did you find most stretching? Why?

RESPOND

7. Pastor Dan spoke about the contentious nature of both of the J words today. How have you experienced that? What do you think the cause might be? How does it impact your conversations or your relationships?
8. With topics such as this it's good to pause and reflect on what is stirring in our hearts and minds. Take a few moments to reflect on the formational points from today's passages and message, use the following prompt to prayerfully respond:

God I feel _____ about _____ because _____.

RESOURCES

Watch the Bible Project's video on Justice, [here](#).

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 30:18 | New International Version

¹⁸ 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!

Proverbs 31:8–9 | New Living Translation

⁸ Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. ⁹ Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice.

Jeremiah 22:3 | New Living Translation

¹ This is what the Lord says: Be fair-minded and just. Do what is right! Help those who have been robbed; rescue them from their oppressors. Quit your evil deeds! Do not mistreat foreigners, orphans, and widows. Stop murdering the innocent!

Psalms 146:7–9 | New Living Translation

⁷ He gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry. The Lord frees the prisoners. ⁸ The Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are weighed down. The Lord loves the godly. ⁹ The Lord protects the foreigners among us. He cares for the orphans and widows, but he frustrates the plans of the wicked.