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session page

What is Justice Anyway?

Isaiah 42:1-9 | Session 9.02

Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Find links on the Mystic webpage for this session.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media).

Context

Share [this story](#), and [this one](#), about judges who gave out unusual sentences and ask:

- How do you feel about these stories and why?
- To what degree do you think Justice was done by the judge who pronounced the sentence?
- What would have been the most just way to punish each of the individuals in these stories, and why?
- What do you think is the relationship between laws, as they are written, and true "justice?"

Content

Read Isaiah 42:1-19, then watch the Bible Background Video.

Ask questions like these:

- If you were living at the time these scriptures were written, what do you think your experience of "justice" might have been?
- What do you think that the original hearers of this scripture were hoping justice would be, going forward, and why?
- How do you feel about this statement? *In today's text in verse 4 we learn that this justice is not reserved for any one group of people, which may have felt frustrating to the Israelites who were in captivity in Babylon. But rather, God's justice is for all on the earth...*
- To what degree is justice a universal concept, versus one that depends on the perspective of the one seeking it?
- What does the understanding of God's justice, as presented here, tell us about our own relationships with God?

Closure

Share this article on Americans' attitude toward the fairness of wealth distribution, reminding the group of some of the key points from the article:

- *63% of Americans say money and wealth distribution is unfair*
- *These attitudes are substantially unchanged over past 30 years*
- *Slight majority of 52% favor heavy taxes on rich as fix*
- *Those with annual household incomes of at least \$75,000 (54%) are considerably less likely than those with incomes below \$30,000 (74%) to agree that wealth should be more evenly distributed.*
- *.... nearly half of Americans (46%) are strong redistributionists – in the sense that they believe the distribution of wealth and income is not fair, and endorse heavy taxes on the rich as a way of redistributing wealth.*
- *One in four are in essence free-market advocates – sanguine about the distribution of wealth and income and not supporting heavy taxes on the rich.*
- *Another 16% say the income and wealth distribution is not fair, but don't endorse heavy taxes as a remedy.*

- *A small percentage have the somewhat contradictory views of believing that the distribution is fair but favoring heavy taxes on the rich.*

Ask the group:

- How do you feel about the information uncovered in this survey and why?
- To what degree does this report coincide with or challenge the way that most of the people you know think?
- In what ways do you think this report speaks to the concept of "justice" and why?
- What are some other aspects of living in our society that reflect our attitudes toward justice, whether positively and negatively?
- In what ways do we need to come to some terms with ourselves in order to accept a larger concept of justice?
- What are some ways by which we can bring true justice to others?

Close with a prayer

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