



MIND
session page

What is Justice Anyway?

Isaiah 42:1-9 | Session 9.02

Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

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- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- 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

Start by asking:

- Without consulting a dictionary, how would you define the word "justice?"
- Some people believe justice is a basic human need, something each human being desires for herself or himself. What do you think?
- Why do we have an innate desire for things to be "just and fair," at least as we understand the terms?

Content

Read [Isaiah 42:1-19](#), then watch the Bible Background Video and ask

- What would “justice” mean to the original audience for this scripture?
- In what ways might they have imagined God’s justice coming?
- Look at the description of the servant in verses 1-4. How will he bring about God’s justice and how do you think this compared to the kind of “hero” the people were looking for in that time?
- How do we see Jesus’ ministry reflected in this description of the servant?
- What kind of hope does God’s servant offer for those who feel nearly broken or burnt-out (v.3)?
- What “credentials” does God offer in verse 5 and why might God begin this promise by recalling what God has already done?
- For these refugees who felt God had abandoned them, what comfort does God offer in this passage?
- What will the relationship of the first listeners be to the other people of the world?
- Taken as a whole, what vision of justice is offered by this passage?

Closure

Continue by asking:

- How do you feel about Nikki’s way of talking about justice – not as punishment for those who have done something wrong, but as a great “leveling?”
- In what ways might one definition fit into the other?
- What might God’s justice look like for people who live in dangerous places such as war-torn countries or in places where Christianity is illegal?
- What might God’s justice look like for those who live in relative comfort and safety?
- If we seek or pray for justice in some situation, why is it sometimes easy to forget that our idea of “justice” might be unfair to someone else?
- In what way are today's scriptures a model for the justice we may need to seek in today's world?
- What can we do to promote justice for everyone, as opposed to simply the kind of "justice" that makes things best for us?

Close with prayer.

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