



YOUTH
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.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Have a whiteboard or butcher paper with markers that you can use for a brainstorming session (See Closure)
- Listen to the FaithElement podcast for this session.
- Use the social media prompts on this session's web page to help youth begin engaging the session ahead of their gathering.

Intro

Show the [Ben Hur clip](#) and ask:

- Why do you think people sometimes feel the need to take justice in to their own hands?
- Why do we doubt that justice will happen?
- To what degree do you think bringing justice is our role or God's role and why?
- How does God bring about justice in the world?

Context

Play a game of "Mafia" where you produce a deck of cards, with one specific card designating the "mafia" and another designating the "policeman." All the other cards will designate regular townspeople. Have the group sit in a circle and give each person a card, encouraging everyone to keep theirs a secret, and remind them that the goal of the game is to stay alive.

The game begins as you tell the townspeople to go "to sleep" so everyone will need to close their eyes and put their heads down. Announce that the "mafia" should wake up and perform a "hit" by pointing to their victim, then go back to sleep. Continue by telling the "policeman" to wake up, at which point they should point to someone they suspect, and you will, in silence, either affirm or deny their choice. Put the policeman go to sleep, and have everyone wake up, then tell everyone about what happened during the night, specifically about who was killed (a funny story adds to the game). Invite the "townspeople" to name the other group members they suspect as being the mafia, giving their reasons for their accusations, and giving the accused an opportunity to defend themselves. After each person is accused, the townspeople get to vote if that person is guilty or innocent, and those voted as "guilty" are eliminated from the game. Continue through several nights until either the mafia is caught by the police, eliminated for the game, or successfully kills all the townspeople.

After the game, ask:

- How did you feel playing this game?
- What was it like when you were accused of something that you did not do?
- What most affected your ability to figure out who was the "mafia?"
- How do you feel about the justice that was served in this game and why?
- When does justice prevail in our real world?
- Why does it seem that people don't really get what they deserve?
- How do you feel when justice is not done and people get away with stuff?

Content

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

Ask your group:

- Why might the Israelites in this passage have thought that justice was not being done?
- What might justice have looked like for the people who had destroyed their way of life?
- In what ways might this passage have given them hope?
- What do you think is the definition of justice?
- According to this passage, in what ways is God going to bring justice to the world?
- In what ways does Jesus fulfill the role of the servant who will bring justice?
- How is this battle for justice still being fought?
- What role do you have in bringing justice to this world?

Closure

Spend some time with the group brainstorming ways that they can be active participants in the justice that God is bringing to the world. Focus on questions like:

- In what areas of your own life might you be anxiously awaiting justice to be done?
- What areas of our world need justice to be done?
- What marginalized people groups need justice?
- What does justice look like at your school and in your church?
- In what ways do you see God actively working to bring justice to each of these situations?

Close this session in prayer

Writer: Don Breeden