

Dear Justice Journey Participant

We are excited that you have decided to join us on this journey. Throughout our 5 weeks together, we believe you will be inspired and equipped to better engage, as a Christ follower, with issues of social justice in your context. You can expect to feel challenged and excited about Christ's call and action for social justice in our context and how, individually and as a member of a congregation, you may be part of it.

The Justice Journey consists of 4 steps and an interlude covering the following topics:

1. WHY Justice – *God's heart for social justice*
2. WHERE Justice – *Noticing our context*
INTERLUDE – *Pause, selah*
3. HOW Justice – *Moving towards action*
4. WHAT Justice – *Responding in our community*

Each step includes:

- Prescribed resources to read or watch
- Personal reflection
- Biblical meditation and prayer
- Going deeper resources (optional)
- A 2-hour workshop for group engagement with the prescribed resources, a small amount of teaching, discussion times, learning activities and time to pray and discern

The prescribed and going deeper resources may be found on the Justice Journey website, at www.justchurch.co.za. Also on the website, there is an optional 15-day devotional guide on justice which you may like to follow in your daily quiet time whilst you are on the Justice Journey.

To get the most out of this Justice Journey, you need to attend all the workshops and take time **before** each workshop to go through the prescribed preparation for that step. This will enrich you personally and enable you to participate fully in the workshops.

Our prayer is that you will discover more about God's invitation for you to bring justice and mercy into every sphere in which you are involved. We pray that you will gain a deeper understanding of what the bible says about justice, and how to do justice in a way that honours God and the people you engage with.

Living justly is a lifelong journey of grappling, learning, growing and responding. May God speak to you powerfully during this time of reflection and engaging with this important topic.

The Just Church Team

About this journal:

This journal will help you to reflect on the prescribed materials and engage with the topic of justice through the personal reflection questions. We have given it to you in a file rather than bound format, as we feel sure you will have some of your own resources that you will want to include. We encourage you to use this journal as much as possible to capture your thoughts and prayers whilst you take part in this journey.

Each step's prescribed preparation includes:

- PRESCRIBED RESOURCES

You will be given prescribed resources in the form of book chapters, videos, blogs and the like. These form the foundation of all workshop discussions and activities, with limited 'new' information given at the workshops. You will be able to access all the relevant resources if you follow the Courses and Justice Journey menu options on the website www.justchurch.co.za.

- PERSONAL REFLECTION

Part of your learning will be catalysed through your reflection on what you are experiencing whilst on this journey. A good practice to follow is that of journaling: writing down your thoughts, feelings and insights as they occur. No-one else will read your reflections – they are a valuable tool for you to make sense of what God may be saying to you around justice.

- BIBLICAL MEDITATION

Meditating on a verse or passage of scripture involves inviting the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind to his voice, reading the passage a few times, waiting for insights and thoughts to occur to you and then praying about their potential meaning and application in your life. It is useful to journal what comes up for you during this practice for reference at a later stage.

- GOING DEEPER

Additional resources are provided on the website for each step. These may be of interest to you so be sure to look at them. However, these will generally not be used in the workshops. The aim of these resources is to provide the opportunity for deeper engagement with various perspectives of the topic being considered. Although not essential to the workshops, engagement with this material will be useful for your growth and learning around the subject of social justice. You may also decide to explore the going deeper resources after the step's workshop, and this is fine too.

STEP 1: WHY JUSTICE

God's heart for social justice

Our Justice Journey starts by reflecting on the reasons why it is important for Christians to be just. For this, we go to the Bible, both the old and the new testaments, where we find that justice is very important to God and was key in Jesus' earthly ministry.

Prescribed Resources:

1. Watch the short video on Biblical Justice by Ken Wytsma. How does Ken define Biblical Justice? How does he define Social Justice?

2. Read 'Theology of Social Justice: Part 1' and record your key thoughts and any questions:

3. Watch the video 'Jesus and Justice' by Rene August and read 'Integral Mission in the Teaching of Jesus' by Elaine Storkey (note: Storkey uses the term *integral mission* is used to describe mission as inclusive of social justice). What thoughts come to mind about Jesus' and justice?
