

# JUSTICE

Heavenly Virtues: **Justice** | Connection Group Discussion Guide | Week 3

## Connect (5 to 10 minutes)

***Come together to build relationships through fellowship and sharing about this week's worship.***

- Take a few minutes to share your thoughts about worship this week.
  - What aspects of worship did or did not connect with you?
  - What story or illustration made an impact on you?
- Share about a time you volunteered with a ministry or group that is important to you. How did this experience impact you?

## Context (30 to 40 minutes)

***Dig deeper into the videos and scripture for this week through questions and discussion.***

- Before watching the video, go around your group and ask each person to share their definition of justice.

***Watch the first half of the video for this session on your DVD or online.***

- Do you agree with the statement that you cannot have justice without relationships? Why or why not?
  - How does this align with your definition of justice you shared earlier?
- Do you agree that there is a difference between our community justice system and justice within Christianity? Why or why not?
  - How are they different? How are they similar?
  - How do you think our Christian understanding of justice should interact with our justice system in our community, state, and nation?
- Share about a time when you have been impacted by someone else's selfishness. What was that experience like?
  - Share about a time when you have fallen into the sin of selfishness. How did your behavior change? What impact did you have on others?

NOTES

***Read Exodus 1:8-17***

Notice how this passage of scripture begins: "...a new king came to power in Egypt who didn't know Joseph." If justice is centered in relationships, then injustice occurs from a lack of relationships or broken relationships. Simply put, Pharaoh did not know Joseph or his people and injustice followed.

- Where do you see selfishness in this story? How does it impact the relationships and people involved?
  - Dig deeper: what are the fears or desires that drive Pharaoh’s selfishness here?
  - When do those same fears and desires impact you? How do you react?
  - How do you see God responding to Pharaoh’s selfishness in this passage?
- Share about a time when you did not know someone and misjudged them or hurt them because of it.
  - How did your lack of relationship impact your selfishness?
  - What did you learn from this experience?

**Watch the second half of the video for this session on your DVD or online.**

- How do you respond to the idea of selflessness as a negative thing?
  - When have you fallen for the lie that you have nothing to contribute or your presence doesn’t matter? What caused you to feel this way?
  - Share about a time when you have been impacted by someone else’s selflessness as the video describes it. How did this affect you?

NOTES

**Read Exodus 2:1-10**

- Where do you see justice at work in this passage of scripture?
  - List the specific acts or gifts of justice that Pharaoh’s daughter gives to Moses and his family.
  - Where have you seen justice like this in your community? How is God working through these efforts?
  - Share one act of justice you feel called to after this discussion.

**Call (10 minutes)**

*We believe that God not only shows us who God is but invites us to participate in God’s ministry by answering unique calls in our own lives. Join together in discovering how we can actively respond to scripture and God’s presence.*

- Which of these two vices do you currently struggle with the most? Why?
  - How are you experiencing God’s forgiveness for this sin?
  - What is one thing you can do to avoid this temptation this week?
- We believe in our ability to live as virtuous people when we do the simple work of practicing virtues in our everyday lives. If you are participating in the “call to action” shared in our weekly worship services for this series, share with the group which action(s) you chose and why. (Please refer to the Call to Action handout for weekly calls to action.)

**Closing (5 minutes)**

*God calls us into community by sharing our joys and concerns together in prayer and supporting one another in our walks with Christ. As we share testimony and stories of our lives, let us listen to where God is working within our community and how we can build each other up in Christian love.*

- Share joys and concerns with one another.
- Close in prayer, either by inviting a group member to pray or by using the prayer provided below.

**Closing Prayer**

God we thank You that You are a God of restorative justice, setting creation right through Your grace and love. We confess that so many times we fall into the sins of selfishness and selflessness, choosing to ignore the injustices in front of us. We are sorry. Help us have eyes to see that our role matters, ears to hear Your call to act justly, and hearts with the courage to act as You hope we will. Amen.