

03 JUSTICE SERVED

KEY TEXT: AMOS 5:4-15

CENTRAL truth

God wants us to seek Him and show the world who He is. When we let evil happen, we give people the impression that the God we serve is okay with the way people hurt each other. When we serve justice, we show the world who He really is.

key question

Why did the Israelites assume that God was okay with the evil they were practicing? What are some examples of ways this still happens in our world today?

The Israelites assumed that since they were God's chosen people and He hadn't stopped them or punished them yet, He must be okay with what they were doing. Like many Christians today, they failed to realize that God didn't owe them anything. He was actually showing them great mercy by giving them a chance to repent. It's never okay for a child of God to ignore the hardship of others or benefit from it financially, socially, emotionally, politically, or otherwise.

keep in mind

Because the world's social, political, and economic climate is so tenuous right now, make a sincere effort to set a calm tone in group discussion and create a safe space for your students.

You will likely have teenagers in your group who come down on both sides of any specific topic related to present-day injustice. Do not allow discussion to devolve into debate or use your meeting time to voice personal opinion. Instead, be careful to focus on what the Bible has to say about God's love for people and how we can express that love as His representatives. Point out our responsibility for our own actions and discourage students from judging others.

application

Why does God care so much about justice? How might our lives and priorities be different if we cared more about justice the way God does?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Students should recognize their responsibility to interact with others in a way that reveals God's character, such as His compassion, mercy, grace, kindness, and patience. Students should consider whether they might be taking God's grace for granted like the Israelites did.

FOR THE LEADER: Help students recognize the injustice that goes on in the world while discouraging them from pointing fingers or adopting judgmental attitudes. You should challenge students to take responsibility for their own actions and repent of anything that doesn't reflect God's character.

FALL
2022