



April 28, 2024

**The Lion Roars:  
Week 1 – Introduction on Biblical Justice**

**Big Idea:** An encounter with Jesus will lead to a life of justice and care for others.

**Overview:** Words seem to wander. What we knew in the past to mean something, take on new meanings. The idea of “social justice” ten years ago would be an idea that most Christians adhere to. However, with the rise of identity politics and wider secular social justice movements, some Christians have distanced themselves from the idea of social justice. However, there is biblical instruction to “do justice” (Micah 6:8). This introductory sermon sought to bring clarity to how biblical justice differs from secular alternatives. It also sought to prepare people for the difficult message Amos brought to Israel. Amos, not lacking any courage, acts as God’s voice to a people who had distanced and forgotten their charge to re-present God to each other and to the world.

**Life Group Objectives:**

Remember why you exist as a group! Life Groups are to:

1. Reflect on this past week’s message and passage or dig into the series you are going through as a group. We desire for you to have the Bible play a key role in your time together.
2. Welcome new people into your group who are searching and desperate for community! We are receiving weekly requests from people who desire to join groups. Are you able to welcome new people into your group as you were once welcomed?
3. Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members. How can you build one another up this week?
4. With a series on biblical justice, think intently on how your group can play a part in being active in your neighborhood through a serve project, or to engage with agencies in our city doing their part to bring lift to marginalized people.

**Conversation starters:**

- What comes up when we talk about justice?
- What makes this conversation complicated or difficult?
- Looking at the world, there are injustices everywhere. What is your responsibility as a Christian to engage with these realities?

**Learning from God’s Word: Bible Study Discussion**

**Read Scripture:** Micah 6:8

**Questions for Discussion:**

1. **How do modern people view justice?**
  - Pastor Chris outlined 4 different views. What did you learn?
  - How do you see these views represented in our current culture (in language, news stories, commitments)?
  - What happens to a view of justice that does not include the idea of sin?
2. **How does the Bible speak about justice?**
  - What does justice mean?
  - Pastor Chris presented 6 principles about justice. Which one stuck out to you?
  - The Bible presents a nuanced view of injustice and how it occurs. Some people say it is only society and communal factors, and other people say it is only due to individual choice. The Bible says both:
    - In Daniel 9, Daniel repents for the actions of Israel and his ancestors, even though it seems he did not personally participate in them. How do we connect this to our current moment as Christians living in 2024?

- Yet, in Acts 3:19, Luke explicitly links sin to personal choice and freedom. Injustice also stems from personal choice and decision. What are you responsible for?
- How does this nuanced view help us understand the complex reasons for injustice in our world?

### 3. What are we going to see in Amos?

- *Privilege brings peril* – this series will not guilt you into obedience but rather ask the question, what are you responsible for with all that God has entrusted to you?
- *History doesn't make up for present spiritual commitment* - the temptation is to rest on what God has done in the past without pressing into what He can do today. What is a new dream, prayer, or activity that God may be asking you to invest in?
- *Religious practice and profession are invalid* – God desires a pure and contrite heart over and against a heart that is cold and distant. Are there any places in you that are outwardly obedient but inwardly you are far from God?

#### Listening to God:

- How has God been present in our discussion so far? What themes have emerged?

#### Prayer Prompts and Application:

- Be sensitive to the group as this can be a heavy discussion. Give people space to process their thoughts and emotions. Create safety and openness to share and pray. Remember, you are not there to fix all the difficulties or places of dissonance, but simply to point them to Jesus!
- Invite members of the group to share prayer requests. Gently nudge people to go a few levels deeper by being specific and vulnerable.
- Pray for clarity as each person thinks about the sphere of influence they have been sent into. Where is God asking you to engage in, being sanctified and sent to do so?

#### For Further Study:

##### Books:

- *Generous Justice* by Tim Keller
- *A Biblical Critique of Secular Justice and Critical Theory* by Tim Keller
- *The World is Not Ours to Save* by Tyler Wigg-Stevenson