



Arise

A STUDY ON GOD'S HEART
FOR JUSTICE

LEADER GUIDE



This leader guide is meant to support you as you lead and provide additional questions for your small group to discuss as you walk through this study together. We simply want to make your role a bit easier and provide a starting point to get the conversation going.

LEADER EXPECTATIONS

GATHER AND FACILITATE CONVERSATION

We recommend that each person read the study daily. Then, once a week, gather as a small group to dialogue about the daily questions and/or discuss the questions provided in this guide.

BUILD A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUR PEOPLE TO GO DEEP

There are many ways to study together. However you go about it, we ask that you create a simple and pure environment to come, pray, and learn about God's heart for justice.

PRAY:

In preparation for your time together, spend time in prayer. Beg for the Holy Spirit to fall afresh and use your time together for God's glory. Pray for those participating in the study, that they would gain a deeper understanding of God's heart for justice and their role in it today.

LEAN ON GOD:

God will have a unique agenda for your group each time you meet. Rely on Him instead of trying to control the conversation. Lean into your own weakness and into His strength and direction.

BE TRANSPARENT:

You have the opportunity to set the tone for those around you. If you choose not to be vulnerable, other women may not feel the freedom to be honest. We encourage you to be honest and transparent, creating an environment for others to open up.

LISTEN, BUT ALSO LEAD:

When we are vulnerable, it is a tremendous risk that needs to be honored. Protect the women in your group by not interrupting and instead listening and empathizing. In love, point women back to what the truth of God's Word says in their situation.

MODEL TRUST:

Be open with your group about how you are processing this study. Throughout the study, we must

continue to seek God and ask for His help in understanding His Word. These women look to you for an example. We encourage you to be intentional in your relationship with God as we walk through the next six weeks.

KEEP UNITY A CENTRAL VALUE

Your group likely has different experiences and backgrounds. As a leader, you have the responsibility to keep a spirit of unity within your group. We ask for sensitivity, openness, and a safe environment for everyone to learn together. We encourage you to pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you in demonstrating love to everyone as you learn and process this study together.

SUPPLIES

- IF:Equip study book for each participant, or access to the study on IFEquip.com or the IF:Gathering app
- Leader Guide
- Bible
- Daily videos. If the daily videos on IFEquip.com or in the IF:Gathering app are important to your discussion, use your computer or phone to play the video for the group.



WEEK 1

The Origin of Hope & Justice

Why did you choose to do a study on justice? Is there anything you anticipate may make you feel uncomfortable?

How does knowing that we all have the imprint of God affect how we treat others?

How is seeking justice a part of gospel work?

In what ways have you been tempted to let your personal needs get in the way of helping others?

Day 2 mentions three parts of God's response to injustice: compassion, wrath, and rescue. Which one resonates with you the most?

When you are feeling overwhelmed by sin and injustice around you, how do you focus on the light of Christ?

Read Isaiah 61:1 and Luke 4:18. Why do you think Jesus chose to start his ministry with a quotation from the prophet Isaiah?

How does understanding God's restoration in our own lives help us to seek reconciliation with others?

It is easy to say God has called us to a "ministry of reconciliation," but what might that look like in practice?

How does Cassie's story of bravery and hope resonate with your perspective of a God who seeks justice for the oppressed?



WEEK 2

Justice and the Old Testament

Listening is a huge motif throughout Hagar's story. List some of the ways you notice listening coming into play in Genesis 16.

What does Hagar's story tell us about the heart of God?

How do you think Hagar must have felt when God spoke to her one-on-one? Why do you think it was significant that God called her by name?

What lessons would we miss if Tamar's story wasn't in the Bible?

Have you ever felt forsaken or forgotten by God? What did you do to remind yourself of His love?

Describe how the Israelites felt when they saw their oppressors silenced forever (Exodus 15). How does this compare to Christ's defeat of sin?

In what ways has God revealed His glory in your life? Take a moment to testify of God's work.

Do you think the prophet Nathan would have been successful in calling David to repentance if he hadn't started with a story?

How do you go about mustering the courage to speak up for the voiceless?



WEEK 3

The Heart of Jesus

Read Matthew 9:12–13. How do Jesus’ words encourage you?

Note the order of the words in John 8:11. First Jesus stated He did not condemn her. Then He urged her to “Go, and ...sin no more.” Why might the word order be significant?

The man in John 5—having been an invalid for 38 years—felt like his situation was hopeless. Who do you think are the ones who feel most hopeless in our own society?

When it comes to revealing His glory, God isn’t looking for those with the most faith or knowledge. How does that encourage you today?

In what ways might fighting injustice bring about inconvenience in your life?

Why do you think Jesus chose to heal on a Sabbath instead of waiting for the next day?

In what situations do you think it is okay to break a societal rule in order to right an injustice?


How did Jesus offer dignity to the outcasts (Matthew 8; Mark 5)?

Why is it so important to affirm a person’s dignity when we fight for justice?



WEEK 4

In the Margins



Do you agree that the vulnerable can be defined as “any group of people less likely to receive justice due to diminished access, money, or ability”? Is there anything you would add or change about this definition?

Who do you think are the people in our society whom we would rather forget about?

Think of a time when you initially struggled to show compassion toward someone. How did asking questions or learning more about them change your perspective?

Why was it so significant that a Samaritan was the hero of the story in Luke 10?

How would you answer the question: “Who is your neighbor?”


What similarities do you see in the three parables found in Luke 15? How does this help us better understand the heart of God?

Think about the words found in Ephesians 2:8. In what ways do we overlook God’s grace in our lives?

The older brother viewed his father’s love as transactional (Luke 15). In what ways do we view our relationship with God as transactional?

What do you think 1 Peter 4:8 means when it says love covers a multitude of sins?

Jessi describes proclaiming the kingdom of God as life-giving. In what ways have you observed this in your own life?





WEEK 5

The Gospel Overcomes Our Brokenness

In what ways has your church been welcoming to others? In what ways could it improve?

Is it possible for a church to create an environment that is welcoming to everyone? If so, how? If not, why?

What are some tangible steps you can take today to practice making justice more important than your own physical comfort?

Examine your heart and your motivations. What typically drives your good deeds toward others: legalism or compassion?

In what ways does legalism murder devotion?

We often divide ourselves based on ethnic, cultural, racial, and political lines, for comfort and convenience. Which of these stands out to you the most? In what areas do you find yourself most likely to be segregated?

How have you traditionally understood the word “blessed”? How does that line up with Matthew 5?

How does a proper understanding of the word blessed change how we view suffering?

How can we bring dignity to others who are made in the image of God?

What most resonated with you from Amrit’s story?

WEEK 6

Now What?

What does it look like to proclaim the Lord's favor
(Luke 4:18–19)?

What most holds you back from being the arms and feet of
Jesus?

List some tangible steps you can take to tear down the idol of
comfort.

Is there a person from the “cloud of witnesses” who captures
your attention? What about him or her most inspires you?

Have you ever spent time in prayer and fasting on behalf of
others? What did God teach you during this time?

What are some of your favorite organizations that empower,
educate, or minister to others? How can you champion these
organizations?

Why do you think some people try to relegate the issue of
justice to a particular political party? How does this line up
with Scripture?

What might it look like for God's will to be done on earth as in
heaven?

How does Joy's determination inspire you not to give up?

What lessons from this study were most meaningful to you?

