



WEEK 3 : Do Justice – Justice and Stuff

Date: Oct 25, 2020

Bible Passages: Leviticus 19:18, James 1:27, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 1 Timothy 5:8, Galatians 6:10

Bottom Line: Our stuff is not our stuff, God lays claim to all that we own. As owner of our stuff, God requires that we love our neighbor as ourselves by sharing what we own with others.

Video Teaching: https://youtu.be/ecV_kYcynkw

Preparation: Mom and/or dad, take time to prepare well for this spiritual experience with your son or daughter and perhaps their friends. Proper preparation includes reading through this guide, setting up a comfortable environment, preparing the videos, materials (*everyone will need a Bible, pen and notebook/journal*) and snacks, and prayer. It also includes giving your participants time to prepare as well. Let them know in advance what you want to do and then remind them a few minutes before your start time so that they are ready too.

Interactive game / activity –“What costs more?” Pumpkin Spice Latte edition. Use the game link found [HERE](#)

- Try and guess what costs more, a grande pumpkin spice latte from Starbucks or these random internet purchases.

Activity Debrief: This would be a great time to pass out snacks.

- If you won the lottery what would be the first thing you would buy?
- Why do you think money has such a large influence on people?

Video Teaching

Set-up: Say to the group, “*Today we are talking about pursuing Biblical Justice with our money and stuff. Before we start the video, tell me what you think pursuing justice with your money or stuff means? What does that look like?*”

Once you have discussed the question a little bit, press play on the teaching video.

View teaching video [HERE](#)

Small Group Discussion

Discussion Starter:

- How have you seen a desire to be possessive over money or things influence you or your friends?

Scripture:

Read James 1:22-27

- But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Digging Deeper:

- Re-read verse 22. Even though this verse is very direct, what does it mean to you? How would you resay this verse in your own words?
- Verses 23-24 gives an interesting analogy. It compares someone who hears the word but does not do it, to someone who looks in a mirror intently at their own face, then forgets what they look like. Why do you think it is easy to hear the call to "love your neighbor as yourself" by sharing what God has given you?
- Which is most difficult to do when it comes to loving your neighbor as yourself: loving your family as yourself (here), loving the family of God as yourself (near), loving the greater community as yourself (far)? Why?
- How would you define religion? How would your friends or "the world" define religion? Where does verse 27 fit into your definition of religion?

Application:

- What can you do this week to pursue justice with your money and stuff?
- What can you do this week to "love your neighbor as yourself" in your own family (here)?
- What can you do this week to "love your neighbor as yourself" within the family of God (near)?

Closing Activity & Prayer: Choose 1 of the following options for the whole group together.

- Singing / Reflection:
 - Listen to and reflect (or sing if you know it) on the song Solution by Hillsong. You can play the song [HERE](#). This song is a fantastic call and reminder to the people of God to be the hands and feet of Jesus, to rise up and love our neighbor as we love ourselves.
- Journal Response: Have students journal in a notebook or in a note on their phone and write about what it would look like if families took care of their own families, if families that were taken care of then took care of other friends and families, and if those friends and families that were taken care of took care of the community at large. Write about what kind of needs would be met, write about the problems that could be solved. What would that world look like? What would those people look like, act like, talk like? Imagine this kind of world. Take some time to pray to this end as well, and ask God to help us be these kinds of people.
- Scripture Response: Read and memorize Psalm 82:3-4
Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.
- Prayer: Pray and ask God to give you wisdom to know how to better love your neighbor as yourself in all 3 areas, here, near, and far. Ask God for strength to give up selfishness and not be so possessive over our money and our things. Pray that God would give you an opportunity to sacrificially give to someone this week, and ask for the strength to do it without hesitation.