



# Growing as followers of Jesus

## Leaders Guide

### Introduction:

**This week we are continuing to think about God. This week we are looking at God as just and righteous. Justice and fairness are important concepts to children they feel injustice very strongly. Make sure that you give them a safe place to talk through the issues they might have experienced. The key is to make sure that the children understand that God knows what this feels like and cares about being just and fair too. It is also important at this point to remember about Grace, we don't always get this right but God forgives us and ask us to make things right when we have hurt others.**

### Ideas for families:

- **Talk about when they think things are unfair, try to not react if it is something that happens at home but talk about how we could change it to make it fair or highlight how things sometimes need to be different for different people and why.**
- **Together talk about how you would like to work for justice this week and how everyone else can help.**
- **Explore issues of injustice around the world or in your neighbourhood.**

### Ideas for Congregations:

#### **Gathering Idea – God is just and righteous.**

- **Brainstorming issues needing a voice/justice. Bring issues to a board, write them on various coloured post it notes.**
- **Selecting two issues. Hopefully someone will bring up the issue of discrimination/bullying/environment. In this year – what is the face of injustice?**
- **Create action items with the children as a response to the reading with Zacchaeus's story.**
- **Meme difference between justice.?**
- **Conversation when has something happen to you unfair, did someone stick up for you. What did it feel like?**





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### Heart of the Story (Everyone Chat):

**Explore together what is justice? What does it feel like when something is unjust? There are so many things that are said about God in the Bible - some of the primary things we learn from the Bible is that believing in God requires a response from us as God's people. If God is just we are to be just! If God is sacred/holy and people are made in God's image, then every human being is sacred and deserving of being treated in a way that reflects this – this applies to ourselves as well as others – it cannot just be one or the other. When we look at the Bible starting with the book of Genesis, we see that God is Creator – we see that God has made us in God's own image – we see God interested and intervening in our lives, in so many stories, like the Israelites in Egypt – the poor widow in the story of Samuel, Justice in the story of the judges – and love for the world in the story of Jesus. It is because of our understanding of God as love and justice that has influenced and affected the way we in the Uniting Church understands ourselves and the kind of Christianity we practice. Looking at some OT/Hebrew readings and then Jesus' take on this with the story of Zacchaeus. Once Zac has met with Jesus his life is changed and is followed by action. We too on encountering God in Jesus and understanding God as seeking us to be actors in bringing about justice, can respond as Zac did.**

### Activities

- **Have newspaper images, cuttings, and global news (Images for younger children, and age-appropriate issues)**
- **Children can work in groups or pairs to make collages on recycled paper which can be displayed in the church foyer.**
- **Children could make a poster for something that is important to them to encourage others to take action.**
- **Create a movie in small groups or as one group on these issues by Become an influencer as a Uniting Church person. How could you encourage others to take action?**





# Growing as followers of Jesus

## Who is God?

### Just & Trustworthy

Name of  
the Book

Chapter

Verse

**Amos 5 24**

24. But let justice roll on like a river,  
righteousness like a never-failing  
stream!

#### Getting Ready!

What do you think Justice is?

Have you ever heard the word  
righteousness? What do you think it means?



**Today we explore that God is Just and righteous and that these are important things to God, especially for people to be part of.**

So, what does Just mean? It is about being fair, which is not making sure everyone gets equal share of the lollies, although that is part of it, it is that people are treated fairly and with respect. That is how God treats us and God ask us to do the same thing. The word righteous is also used to describe God, that is about God being trustworthy and is someone we can count on to do what God says God will do.

Have you ever experienced something unjust? Have you ever trusted someone and had them let you down? God promises that God will always be fair and that we can count on God. Where can you see that things might need God's justice to help? What could you do to help it happen?

#### PRAISING GOD!

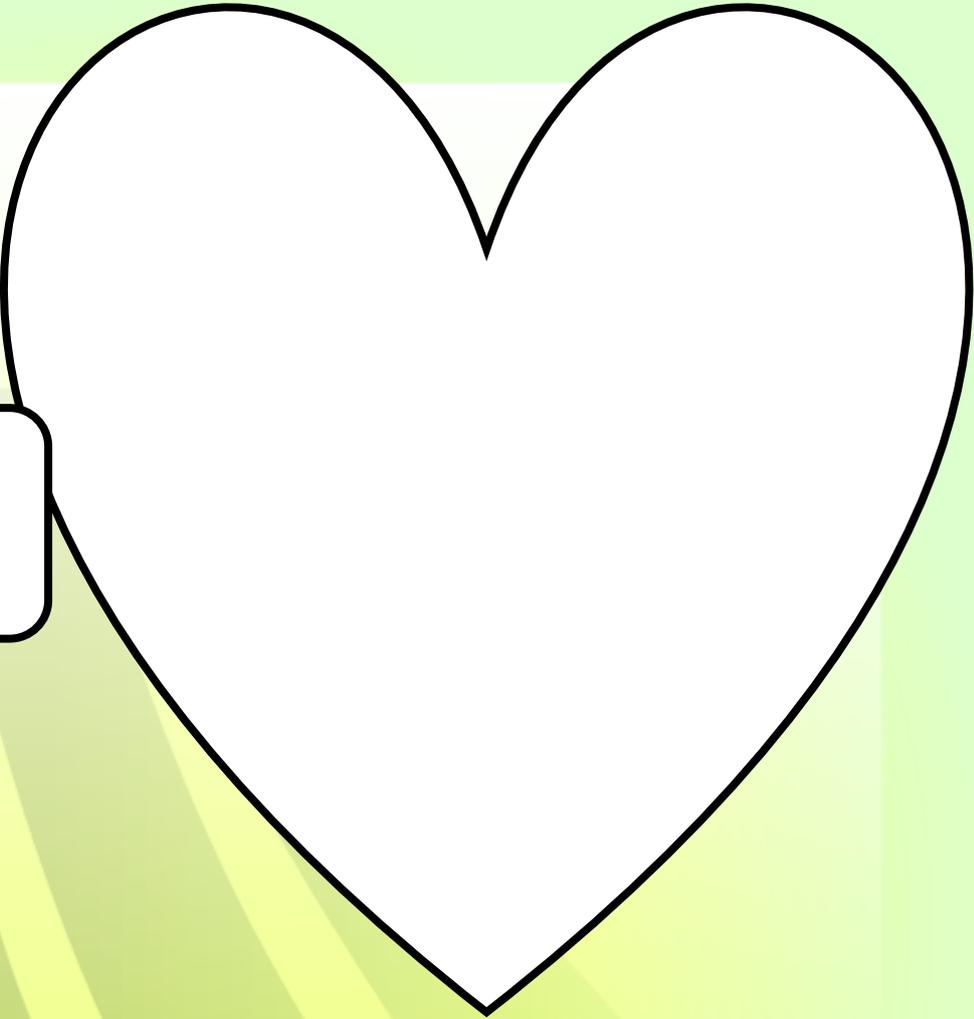
God of justice and mercy you have created us in your image, and you invite us to serve you by acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with you. Teach us ways of kindness and fairness, whether at home or in school. Bless us as we walk with you always remembering that we are your voice in the world today. In Jesus' loving name we pray, Amen.

#### SORRY GOD,

God of compassion hear us as we pray today, remind us how weak we can sometimes be, when making choices that are fair and just.

Grant us courage, make us brave even when we are scared. Thank you that you love us no matter what. In Jesus loving and forgiving name we pray, Amen.





Draw someone in the heart being fair to other



Have you ever stepped in for someone when they have been treated unfairly?



**TELLING OTHERS!**

Have a conversation with someone about what they think justice and righteousness is.

**CONNECT WITH OTHERS**

How can you offer an act of kindness to another person this week, Be brave and courageous?

**SPIRITUAL PRACTICES**

As you walk this week try remembering to pray, think of someone or a situation you would like to walk with "I will be a lover of justice. As God walks with me, I will walk with."

**BLESSING**

As the Lord is just and righteous may you too be just and righteous, may you live in justice and peace today and all days.

