



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## Proverbs: Justice Matters

### GETTING STARTED

Describe a time when someone defended you when you could not defend yourself? (or the opposite)

What happened?

### QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

Why do you think that God makes the issue of justice such an important issue not only in Proverbs, but all over Scripture?

In what way is it easier to see the need for justice when we are unfairly treated, but harder to see it when others are treated unjustly?

Proverbs addresses three areas God calls us to act justly in our world...

- For those that are most vulnerable Read Proverbs 22:22-23; 21:13; 31:8-9 again.
  1. Who would you describe as the "most vulnerable" in our world today? Why?
  2. How do you respond to 22:13 when it says, "God will ruin anyone who ruins them?"
  3. What could you do in the small corner of the world that you live in to "speak up for the poor and the helpless?"
  4. In what way has Christ had mercy on us when we deserved His justice?
- For those facing danger or suffering unjustly? Read Proverbs 24:11-12 again...
  1. Who does this Proverb ask for us to intervene for? In what other areas may God be calling us to intervene?
  2. What "excuses" does God not give us to intervene? In what way is this Proverb related to Matthew 25:37-40? What excuses do I typically give not to intervene when God may be calling me too? Physically, Spiritually (see James 5:19-20)
  3. What way does the "world" let us "off the hook" for not getting involved in "other people's business"?
  4. Who in your life is heading down a dangerous path? What is holding you back from intervening?
- For those we interact with in the marketplace Read Proverbs 16:11-12; 21:12
  1. How is our personal integrity and honesty in the workplace often challenged today?
  2. Why is our honesty and personal integrity so important to God in the marketplace?
  3. How is our honesty and personal integrity honored by God? (Read Proverbs 21:21 and Proverbs 11:17)

4. What simple way could you live out the wisdom of Proverbs to act more justly in your world today?

### **APPLY THE PASSAGE**

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in these passages?

What do you need to stop, start or do differently as a result of reading this passage?

How can we pray for each other?