



awell®

DIVE

Dear Family,

Thanks for sending your young teen to church each week to spend time in God's Word. Here's what we'll be exploring together in the following weeks:

Session 1: God Is Just and Demands Justice. Micah 6:8; Psalm 72; Psalm 82; Isaiah 58:1-12; (God calls us to have a special care and regard for people who are poor, weak, and oppressed.) 

Session 2: Overall Pictures of Justice. 1 Kings 21 (God requires that every person be treated fairly and receive his or her share in God's world.) 

Session 3: Prejudice/Treating Others as Neighbors. James 2:1-7 (The Bible teaches us to put aside our prejudice and treat others as our neighbors.) 

Session 4: Violence. Matthew 26:45-56; John 18:36 (Jesus teaches us to overcome violence by remaining peaceful—restraining people who are violent and bearing violence for the sake of God's kingdom.) 

Session 5: Greed. Ecclesiastes 5:8-20 (The Bible teaches us that greed is harmful for our own lives and that it keeps us from sharing with others.) 

Session 6: Stories about Justice and Living Justly. Amos 5:7, 10-15, 21-24 (God calls us to work for justice and against injustice.) 

Pass It On

As we begin a six-week focus on justice, here are some ideas to help you have faith-building conversations at home:

- Talk with your son or daughter about issues of justice that are particularly close to your heart. Sharing about your involvement in or passion for a particular justice issue can help inspire your child to be involved too.
- Consider organizing a family justice project. Come up with an issue that you all feel passionate about, and use the internet to find ideas on what you can do to help, or connect with a local group that works in that field. This is a great way to pursue justice as a family and grow together!
- Keep an eye out for everyday instances of injustice you may come across, and use these as launching points for conversation.

Sincerely,

P.S. Check out www.NurtureKidsFaith.org for more faith-building ideas for home!

Memory Challenge Cards (NIV)

Copy these Scripture memory cards onto cardstock, and cut them apart to distribute to the group. To help encourage the young teens to use the cards, consider punching a hole in each and attaching it to a key ring or small carabiner.

<p>●</p> <p>³ Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</p>	<p>●</p> <p>⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.</p>	<p>●</p> <p>⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.</p>
<p>●</p> <p>⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.</p>	<p>●</p> <p>⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.</p>	<p>●</p> <p>⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.</p>
<p>●</p> <p>⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.</p>	<p>●</p> <p>¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</p>	<p>●</p> <p>¹¹ Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, be- cause great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the proph- ets who were before you.</p> <p>—Matthew 5:3-12, NIV</p>

Memory Challenge Cards (NRSV)

Copy these Scripture memory cards onto cardstock, and cut them apart to distribute to the group. To help encourage the young teens to use the cards, consider punching a hole in each and attaching it to a key ring or small carabiner.

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 <p>⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.</p>	 <p>¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</p>	 <p>¹¹ Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.</p> <p>—Matthew 5:3-12, NRSV</p>



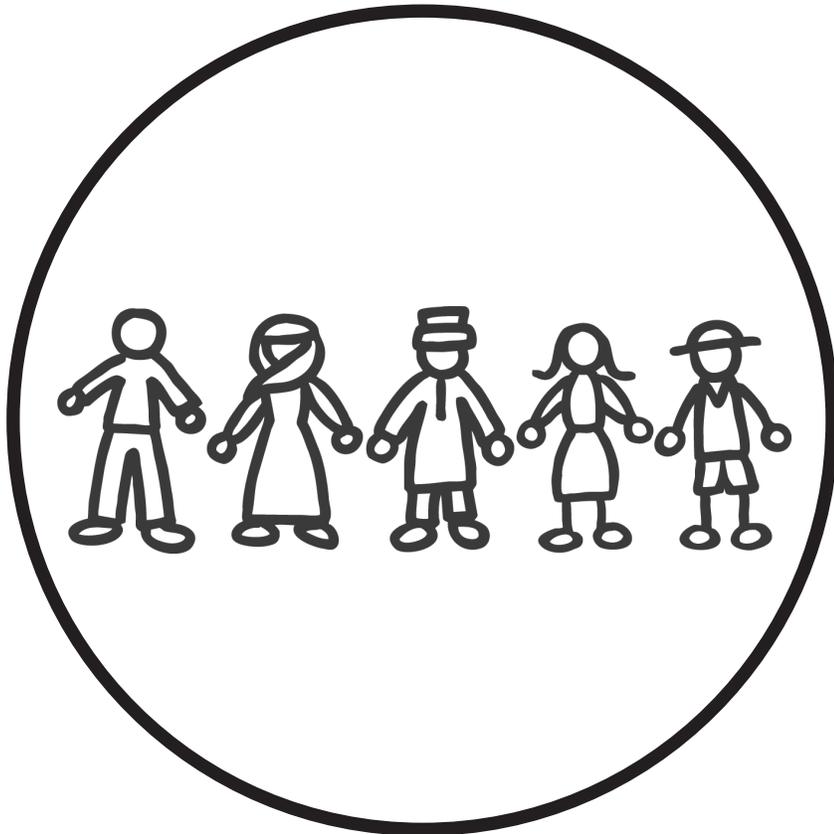
Dive Year 3, Unit 2, Session 2



Dive Year 3, Unit 2, Session 1



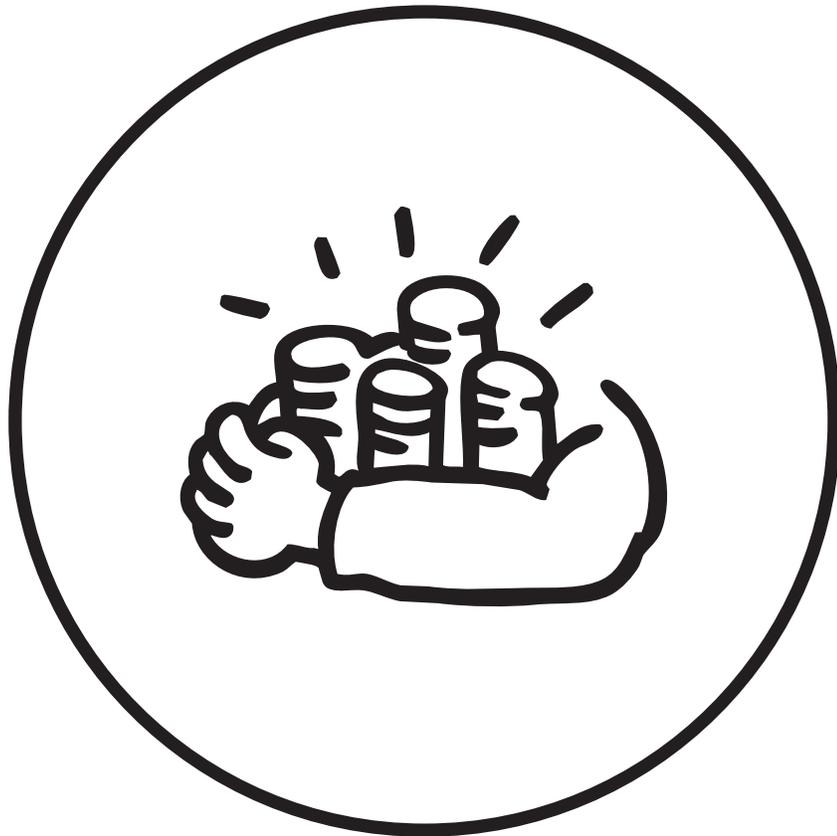
Dive Year 3, Unit 2, Session 4



Dive Year 3, Unit 2, Session 3



Dive Year 3, Unit 2, Session 6



Dive Year 3, Unit 2, Session 5

Your Prayers Won't Get Off the Ground

Isaiah 58:1-12 from *The Message*

¹⁻³ “Shout! A full-throated shout!

Hold nothing back—a trumpet-blast shout!

Tell my people what's wrong with their lives,

face my family Jacob with their sins!

They're busy, busy, busy at worship,

and love studying all about me.

To all appearances they're a nation of right-living

people—law-abiding, God-honoring.

They ask me, ‘What's the right thing to do?’

and love having me on their side.

But they also complain,

‘Why do we fast and you don't look our way?

Why do we humble ourselves and you don't even notice?’

³⁻⁵ “Well, here's why:

“The bottom line on your ‘fast days’ is profit.

You drive your employees much too hard.

You fast, but at the same time you bicker and fight.

You fast, but you swing a mean fist.

The kind of fasting you do

won't get your prayers off the ground.

Do you think this is the kind of fast day I'm after:

a day to show off humility?

To put on a pious long face

and parade around solemnly in black?

Do you call that fasting,

a fast day that I, God, would like?

⁶⁻⁹ “This is the kind of fast day I'm after:

to break the chains of injustice,

get rid of exploitation in the workplace,

free the oppressed,

cancel debts.

What I'm interested in seeing you do is:

sharing your food with the hungry,

inviting the homeless poor into your homes,

putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad,

being available to your own families.

Do this and the lights will turn on,

and your lives will turn around at once.

Your righteousness will pave your way.

The God of glory will secure your passage.

Then when you pray, God will answer.

You'll call out for help and I'll say, ‘Here I am.’

A Full Life in the Emptiest of Places

⁹⁻¹² “If you get rid of unfair practices,

quit blaming victims,

quit gossiping about other people's sins,

If you are generous with the hungry

and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out,

Your lives will begin to glow in the darkness,

your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight.

I will always show you where to go.

I'll give you a full life in the emptiest of places—

firm muscles, strong bones.

You'll be like a well-watered garden,

a gurgling spring that never runs dry.

You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew,

rebuild the foundations from out of your past.

You'll be known as those who can fix anything,

restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate,

make the community livable again.”

Spontaneous Skit of Isaiah 58:1-12

(adapted from *The Message*)

As the narrator, read the skit aloud while your group acts out what you are describing. Emphasize the actions in bold that describe what they may do or say, pausing afterward so they have time to repeat your words or to act something out. Feel free to break with the script in order to provide ideas about how something should be acted out. Don't be afraid to be silly—spontaneous skits are meant to be fun!

Group 1 (vv. 1-3)

God told Isaiah:

“**Shout!** Give a full-throated shout!

Hold nothing back—make it as loud as a trumpet-blast shout!

Tell my people what's wrong with their lives,
face my family Jacob with their sins!

They're **busy, busy, busy at worship,**
and **love studying all about me.**

To all appearances they're a nation of right-living
people—law-abiding, God-honoring.

They ask me, 'What's the right thing to do?'
and love having me on their side.

But they also **complain,**

‘Why do we fast and you don't look our way?

Why do we humble ourselves and you don't even
notice?’”

Group 2 (vv. 3-5)

“You want to know why **I don't look your way?** Well,
here's why:

The bottom line on your 'fast days' is profit.

You drive your employees much too hard.

You fast, but at the same time you **bicker and fight.**

You fast, but you swing a mean fist.

The kind of fasting you do

won't get your prayers off the ground.

Do you think this is the kind of fast day I'm after:
a day to show off humility?

To put on a pious long face
and parade around solemnly in black?

Do you call *that* fasting,

a fast day that I, God, would like?”

Group 3 (vv. 6-9)

“This is the kind of fast day I'm after:

to **break the chains of injustice,**
get rid of exploitation in the workplace,
free the oppressed,
cancel debts.

What I'm interested in seeing you do is:
sharing your food with the hungry,
inviting the homeless poor into your homes,
putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad,
being available to your own families.

Do this and **the lights will turn on,**
and your **lives will turn around at once.**

Your righteousness will pave your way.

The God of glory will secure your passage.

Then **when you pray,** God will answer.

You'll call out for help and I'll say, **'Here I am.'**”

Group 4 (vv. 9-12)

“If you get rid of unfair practices,

quit blaming victims,

quit gossiping about other people's sins,

If you are **generous with the hungry**

and **start giving yourselves to the down-and-out,**

Your lives will begin to **glow in the darkness,**
your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight.

I will always show you where to go.

I'll give you a full life in the emptiest of places—
firm muscles, strong bones.

You'll be like a well-watered garden,

a gurgling spring that never runs dry.

You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew,
rebuild the foundations from out of your past.

You'll be known as **those who can fix anything,**
restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate,
make the community livable again.”



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Year 1

Unit 1 What Do I Do When Things Fall Apart?

Unit 2 What's the Covenant All About?

Unit 3 Who Is God?

Unit 4 Who Is Jesus?

Unit 5 Who Is the Holy Spirit?

Unit 6 What Is the Church?

Year 2

Unit 1 What Is Being a Christian All About?

Unit 2 What's with All the Rules?

Unit 3 Can't We All Just Get Along?

Unit 4 Who's Number 1?

Unit 5 Does What I Do Make a Difference?

Unit 6 What Do I Say When I Pray?

Year 3

Unit 1 Worship

Unit 2 Justice

Unit 3 Prayer

Unit 4 Stewardship

Unit 5 Bible Reading

Unit 6 Missional Living


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