



# [study guide]

## JUSTICE MISSION: Week 1: Traders Who Do Justice 5.13.12

### [the setup]

Describe a time in your life when you were treated unjustly. At that time in your life, how did you want to be helped or served? Did someone come through to help you or not? How do you feel about that now?

As a group, spend some time making lists of 3-5 justice issues that are problems locally, 3-5 justice issues that are problems regionally, and 3-5 justice issues that are problems globally.

As a group, watch the What is a Trader? Video from Brian Mosley at RightNow.org:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MIAh3lYo6k4>

What is your reaction to this video?

### [digging deeper]

Read Micah 6:6-7. Discuss why people tend to think that God is impressed by religious sacrifice. Discuss why God is actually unimpressed with such religious performances. What are some modern day examples of extreme religious sacrifice that are equally unimpressive to God?

Read Micah 6:8. What is different about the list in Micah 6:8 and the list in Micah 6:6-7? Why would God be drawn to one and not to the other?

We are saved by grace through faith, not works (see Ephesians 2:8-9) – the root of our salvation. We are saved by grace through faith that works (see Ephesians 2:10) – the fruit of our salvation. Discuss how Micah 6:8 is the fruit of our salvation, not the root of our salvation.

“The word for justice is the Hebrew term mishpat. [The word mishpat occurs 426 times in 403 verses in the Hebrew Bible.] It’s most basic meaning is to treat people equitably. Mishpat, then, is giving people what they are due, whether punishment or protection or care. Over and over again, mishpat describes taking up the care and cause of widows, orphans, immigrants, and the poor” (Tim Keller, *Generous Justice*, pp. 3-4).

Read Psalm 106:3, Psalm 140:12, and Psalm 146:7-9. Make a list of the justice issues that God Himself is passionate about. When it comes to justice issues, how can our actions change to more and more reflect God’s passion?



# [study guide]

Read Psalm 112:5 and describe the benefits that come when we live reflect the heart of God

Read John 2:13-17. How does this story illustrate of the passion of Jesus for justice? Who was He seeking to serve? From this story, what are the characteristics we see in His life as He pursued justice?

Read the following from the book Radical, by David Platt: "We do have to give up everything we have to follow Jesus. We do have to love Him in a way that makes our closest relationships in this world look like hate. And it is entirely possible that He will tell us to sell everything we have and give it to the poor. But we don't want to believe it. We are afraid of what it might mean for our lives. So we rationalize these passages away... And this is where we need to pause. Because we are starting to redefine Christianity. We are giving into the dangerous temptation to take the Jesus of the Bible and twist Him into a version of Jesus we are more comfortable with. A nice, middle class Jesus. A Jesus who doesn't mind materialism and who would never call us to give away everything we have... A Jesus who wants us to be balanced, who wants us to avoid dangerous extremes... A Jesus who brings us comfort and prosperity as we live out our Christian spin on the American dream" (pp. 12-13). What emotions are stirred in you as you read these challenging words?

In John 2:13-17, Jesus was 1) intentional: aware of the injustice and strategic about confronting it, 2) radical: deliberate and zealous in His confrontation, 3) sacrificial: willing to offend people in power and risking His own reputation and safety. As you think about what makes your heart break and your fist clench, which of these three characteristics is lacking most in your life?

## **[living it out]**

When you look at the many problems we face in the world today, what makes your heart break and your fist clench? What injustice do you hate the most?

Spend a few minutes looking through the Justice Mission booklet from CVC and discuss possible serving opportunities that might be a good fit for you and/or your Community Group. What will you do to turn your intentions into actions?

Think about the takeaway: The just do justice – they trade the American dream for the Jesus dream. What trade do you need to make so you can be more like Jesus in confronting the injustice in your world?

Close your time in prayer. Spend some time praying that each member of your Community Group will truly live out Micah 6:8.