



Few verses in scripture speak with more clarity than Micah 6:8 about what God values. In this series we will explore what it means to focus on what God focuses on most. Justice. Mercy. Humility. Repeat!

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 Read Micah 6:8 Justice seems to be a universal longing of people. Why is that, especially since many who value justice have a worldview with no moral absolutes?

2 MOST FOCUS ON... “punish” instead of “flourish.” Justice matters because it is grounded in the character of God. **Read Psalm 89:14 and 33:5** With that in mind, how should that influence us since we are image-bearers of God? Follow up discussion: Rick pointed out that *“The Bible does speak often and clearly about retributive justice, but it speaks most often about restorative justice.”* Why is this understanding of justice so significant? With this in mind, what does it mean to “act justly” (see **2 Samuel 8:15**)?

3 Read Luke 10:25-38. What is the most challenging part of this parable to you? Why?

4 JUSTICE MEANS... We don’t do people wrong. Rick noted that *“Just people don’t cheat, victimize, or take advantage of their neighbors”* like the people in Micah’s day were doing (**Read Micah 2:2, 3:9-11; and 7:3**). What are some legal yet unjust ways people are denied opportunity today?

5 JUSTICE MEANS... We help those who’ve been wronged. The two who walked past the man in the ditch (from Luke 10) didn’t put him there, but Jesus faulted them for not helping him out. Rick mentioned that *“Justice is more than the absence of badness; it is the presence of active goodness.”* **Read Isaiah 1:17 and Proverbs 31:8-9.** According to those verses, what does justice look like? Share a story of someone you know who has been a champion for those who have no power. What do you think motivated them to engage when detachment would have been the safer path?

6 JUSTICE MEANS... We try to right what’s wrong. Rick noted that *“Justice is more than helping the people out of the ditch; it is trying to make the road safer so fewer people wind up in it.”* Why is it significant to realize that injustice is not just personal but it is often structural? What hope does **Micah 4:3-4** provide us and what role does the church play in providing people with a glimpse of the world that is coming?

7 Let’s be clear: **justice is never “just us.”** Rick closed by reminding us *“To act justly is to love my neighbor no matter who they are, no matter where I find them, no matter what they’ve done. To act justly is to want them to be as blessed as I’ve been.”* What part of that reminder is most challenging to you? What is one thing you can do to become a person who consistently acts justly?

