Call for Justice
Book Study
LEADER'S GUIDE
Thank you for choosing to lead a Call for Justice book study!

As Christians who want to follow God's call to "act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly", it can be difficult to know where to begin. What does the Bible have to say about justice? How can these ideas actually be put into action? What is my role in this work?

It is our hope that this book and your group's study will help you begin to answer these questions. Call for Justice provides a thought-provoking journey into justice – and we believe reading it in community will only make it a richer experience.

In this guide, you will find resources to help you lead your group and guide them through the book.

SINCERELY,

AJS Staff

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LEADING A GROUP

Whether you plan to read *Call for Justice* with members of your church, a group of friends, or another group of justice-seekers, your role as leader will help organize and facilitate your group's discussion.

YOUR ROLE AS GROUP LEADER

1. **Organize and schedule your group's meetings.**
2. **Keep your group's conversation flowing by asking questions and engaging with everyone.**
3. **Be in contact with Alison Wabeke (alison@ajs-us.org) for any questions and coordination.**

If you're interested, an AJS staff member can join one of your first meetings to answer early questions about the book or ASJ.

During one of your final sessions, authors Kurt and Nick can join your group via video call for a time of questions and discussion.
LEADING A GROUP

SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER
BEFORE YOUR FIRST MEETING

What is the purpose of your group's book study?
- Why has your group chosen to read this book?
- Do you have specific goals or outcomes you'd like to achieve?

How will your group meet?
- Many groups are planning to meet virtually. We've included virtual book study tips in this guide to help your meeting go smoothly.
- If you plan to meet in person, we encourage groups to follow the latest CDC guidelines and your local officials' guidelines for the health and safety of everyone in your group.
- Before the start of your book study, email group members to ask about their preferences on meeting virtually or in person.

How often will your group meet? How will you split up the chapters for your meetings?
- Consider sending a schedule out to your group with the chapters they should read for each meeting.

Who will be part of your group?
- Have you considered inviting people outside your immediate circle? Who else might be interested in learning about justice?

How do you want to share leadership?
- How can other members participate in leading your book study? (Examples: taking turns leading the discussion, posing a question to the group, leading an opening prayer, etc.)

Does everyone in your group have a copy of the book?
- You can purchase books from Amazon, Wipf and Stock, or directly from AJS. More details on how to purchase your copy.
TIPS FOR VIRTUAL MEETINGS

If your group chooses to meet virtually, we've included a few tips to help your study go smoothly. We have found that great discussions can happen virtually!

Pick an online platform (like Zoom) for your meetings. Share the link (and password, if applicable) with your group ahead of time.

Log on early so you can greet the members of your group. If this is the first time your group is gathering together, ask everyone to introduce themselves.

Test technology ahead of time. Log on early to your meeting to make sure your audio and video are connected, and be prepared to help other members if they experience issues.

Sit in a quiet spot where you won't be distracted during the meeting. Find a place with good lighting and to angle the camera to make sure everyone can clearly see you.

Ask that everyone in your group turn their cameras on during the meeting. This helps keep the group feel connected to one another, even at a distance.

Using headphones will help you have the best audio quality.

Don't be afraid to kindly ask someone to mute themselves if feedback and background noise are disrupting your discussion.

Give everyone in the group the opportunity to talk. If someone hasn't shared yet, ask their opinion specifically.

Cover these tips with your group during the first meeting so that everyone is on the same page.

Consider asking another member of your group to help with technology so that you can focus on leading the discussion.
LEADING YOUR DISCUSSIONS

It's up to you to decide how to organize your meetings, but we've compiled some suggestions and ideas that you can use with your group.

JUSTICE PRAYERS
Start or end your meetings with one of the justice resources we've included on page 7.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
Use the discussion questions on pages 8-10 to start your conversation.

SCRIPTURE READING
Choose one of the scriptures mentioned in the book (see Scripture Index on page 185). Read the full Biblical text and discuss it as a group. How does this inform your understanding of justice?

INVOLVE GROUP MEMBERS
Ask members of your group to take turns leading the discussion, read a prayer, or pose a question to the group.

SHARE OUR VIDEO RESOURCES
Check out one of the following video resources about ASJ's work and share it with your group via email between meetings.

- Brave Christians: Association for a More Just Society
- Transparency in Government and Fighting for Land Rights
- Standing Up to Violence in Nueva Suyapa
- Cleaning Up the Honduran Police
JUSTICE PRAYERS
Consider opening or closing your meetings with a justice-themed prayer. Below are prayer resources from a variety of denominations.

BOOKS

*Bread for the Resistance: Forty Devotions for Justice People* by Donna Barber

*Rally: Communal Prayers for Lovers of Justice and Jesus* by Britney Winn Lee

ONLINE RESOURCES

"Prayers for Justice, Reconciliation, and Peace" from Reformed Worship

"Prayers for Justice and Peace" from United Church of Christ

"Pray and Act for Peace" from Mennonite Church USA

"Prayers for the Church and the World" from United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

"Prophets of a Future Not Our Own" in honor of Archbishop Oscar Romero

*We often use this poem as a "sending" prayer after a trip or a new learning experience. Consider using it in one of your final meetings!*
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
Below are some questions to help generate discussion. Pick of few of your favorites, or add your own.

OPENING QUESTIONS

- Why are you interested in reading this book? What are you hoping to learn or gain from it (both individually and as a group)?
- Do you feel like you have a good understanding of justice? What questions do you have about justice?
- If someone asked you to explain justice, what would you say? If someone asked you what the Bible says about justice, what would you say?
- Are you already familiar with the authors or the work of ASJ? What questions do you hope will be answered in reading this book?

PART 1

- Kurt and Nick describe their own journeys toward justice work. What has been your own personal journey? Does anyone have a personal experience about their journey toward justice work that they would like to share?
- In chapter 4, Kurt describes how his role as a foreigner can be both an asset and a liability in ASJ's work for justice. Has anyone experienced feeling like an outsider in their justice work? What kinds of privilege do you have, and how does this affect your work for justice?
- How did these chapters challenge your understanding of the role of government? As Christians working for justice, how are we to interact with the government? How does this apply in your context?
- What is your reaction to the explanation of restorative versus retributive justice? What examples of these different types of justice have you seen in your own life?
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
Below are some questions to help generate discussion. Pick of few of your favorites, or add your own.

PART 2
• How do these ideas of punishment, love, and forgiveness shape our understanding of justice? Do you find these ideas easy or difficult to put into practice?
• The story of David and Nathan is told in chapter 12. Who do you identify most with: David, Nathan, Bathsheba, or the people of David's court?
• These chapters talk about having both empathy and healthy anger in relation to justice work. Do you find it difficult to maintain both healthy anger and empathy?
• What is a justice topic where you find it difficult to understand others' anger? Why do you think that is, and how can you practice better understanding of this anger?
• What do you think it means to love beyond fear? Describe a time you've seen this kind of love put into action.

PART 3
• How does the idea of "rights" shape justice work?
• The book mentions the difference between charity, development, and justice and the need for all three. How have you or your church supported ministries in each of these three areas?
• What is shalom, and how does it relate to justice? What would shalom look like in your community?
• How do you maintain hope? What kind of world do you hope for?
• Kurt shares the following saying that his colleague, Omar Rivera, often says: "If you want to change the world, you better have a really good team." Who is on your team in working for justice?
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
Below are some questions to help generate discussion. Pick of few of your favorites, or add your own.

PART 4
- This chapter talks about how the Bible is full of examples of seeking justice. What does that mean for your faith?
- Do you think our identity as Christians makes our justice work distinct from that of non-Christians? Why or why not?
- There is a clear scriptural basis for justice, yet many churches and schools are reluctant to teach about justice. Has this been your experience? What role do you think you could play to change this for your church/school?
- Can you remember a time when you felt resistant to ideas or strategies related to justice work?

PART 5
- How could the lessons and examples described throughout this book be replicated in your city, state, or country? When and in what way recently have you thought more deeply about what justice means for your community?
- Where can we see examples of populism in our world today?
- How does a justice mindset help us engage in meaningful dialogue that is civil and constructive?

FINAL REFLECTIONS
- What is your biggest takeaway from reading this book?
- What is a justice issue in your own community that you want to learn more about?
- What are your next steps? What's your goal in taking on this issue? Who will hold you accountable?
NEXT STEPS FOR YOUR GROUP

We hope that this book sparks a desire to seek justice in your own context, but we know it can be overwhelming to know where to start. Here are some ideas for next steps and further resources to guide your group's justice journey.

AS A GROUP

- Share the "Next Steps for Readers" guide with the members of your group.
- Fill in the "Six Questions for Doing Justice" on the pages 12-13 to think about how you can do justice in your context.
- Choose a justice issue to study as a group. Consider using the Political Discipleship model from the Center for Public Justice.
- Check out our Further Learning list on pages 15-16 and explore one of these resources together.
- Fill in the accountability worksheet on page 14, and discuss with your group how you will hold each other accountable. Consider setting up justice accountability partners within the group.

IN YOUR CHURCH

- Have a conversation with your pastor and church leaders about including more teaching on Biblical justice.
- Think about your church's community programs, missions work, and efforts to help others. Do they include support from each area of charity, development, and justice? If not, how might you advocate for each of the three areas to be included?

SHARE THIS RESOURCE

- Encourage a friend or local leader to read Call for Justice.
- Share a quote or insight from the book on social media to encourage others to think about justice.
- Leave a review on Amazon. This is a great way to share your thoughts on Call for Justice and give others an idea of what they can expect.
SIX QUESTIONS FOR DOING JUSTICE

From pages 178-179 of Call for Justice
"Does it still seem too complicated or overwhelming to do justice in your own community? Maybe you feel convicted, but aren’t sure where to start. The following questions are designed to help you discern where you can make a difference, and how you can ensure that your work is reaching structural or root causes of injustice."

1. **Who is my neighbor?**
   Who are the widowed, the orphaned, and the poor in my immediate geographic vicinity, or in the spaces to which I feel a close affiliation, whether through family, ministry, or other circumstances?

2. **What are the needs, hopes, and desires of my neighbors?**
   What are the yearnings that run deeper than surface-level needs? What are the underlying or “root” causes contributing to their frustration or suffering?

3. **What are the structures and systems responsible for meeting these needs and allowing these hopes to be fulfilled?**
   Who is, as Nick says, “falling down on the job”? What institutions should be the target of our advocacy?
4. How can these systems be strengthened?
Beyond identifying errors and injustices in public systems, what are concrete and practical ways that we can make them more effective, more transparent, or more equitable?

5. With whom can we carry out this work?
Good works demands a good team. How can you walk alongside victims of injustice, allied organizations, churches, businesses, families, and communities to work towards a common goal?

6. How can we commit this work to God?
If there is one lesson I (Kurt) hope people take away from our experience with ASJ, it is that we do not do this work on our own strength, but through God’s protection and providence. How can we ensure that our work is our witness, and that we are inviting others into Jesus’ grace and example?
ACCOUNTABILITY WORKSHEET

After reading a book like Call for Justice, many of us initially feel inspired and eager to take action, but struggle to sustain this level of energy in the weeks and months that follow.

What justice issues have you identified that you want to learn more about? If you had to focus on just one issue, which would it be?

How will you learn more about this topic?

How do your gifts and talents equip you to address this issue? What actions can you take?

Set a goal for three months from now. What do you hope to know by then? What action do you want to take before then?

Who is going to be your "justice accountability partner" to hold you accountable to this goal?
FURTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

The resources provided here are created by groups outside of AJS. While we do not necessarily endorse every statement within these resources, we think these are great places to get started in learning more about justice. We also would love to hear your recommendations for what we should add to this list! Email us at info@ajs-us.org with your recommendations.

BIBLICAL JUSTICE

Read

- *Justice: Rights and Wrongs* by Nicholas Wolterstorff
- *Justice in Love* by Nicholas Wolterstorff
- *Good News About Injustice* by Gary Haugen
- *Justice Calling: Where Passion Meets Perseverance* by Bethany Hanke Hoang and Kristen Deede Johnson
- *Prophetic Lament: A Call for Justice in Troubled Times* by Soong-Chan Rah
- *The Very Good Gospel: How Everything Wrong Can Be Made Right* by Lisa Sharon Harper

Watch & Listen

- Justice video from The Bible Project
- Do Justice podcast from the CRCNA Office of Social Justice

More

- Guide on Biblical Advocacy by CRCNA partners
- Live Justly Devotional by Micah Challenge USA
- Political Discipleship Curriculum from the Center for Public Justice

CHARITY, DEVELOPMENT, AND JUSTICE

Read

- *When Helping Hurts* by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert
- *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help (And How to Reverse It)* by Robert D. Lupton
- *Walking With the Poor: Principles and Practices of Transformational Development* by Bryant Meyers

More

- "Changed for Life" short-term missions curriculum
- Helping without Hurting resources from the Chalmers Center
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IMMIGRATION

Read
- Welcoming the Stranger: Justice, Compassion & Truth in the Immigration Debate by Matthew Soerens and Jenny Yang
- The God Who Sees: Immigrants, the Bible, and the Journey to Belong by Karen Gonzalez
- Enrique's Journey by Sonia Nazario

Watch & Listen
- "The Stranger" film from the Evangelical Immigration Table
- "Who is Welcome Here" documentary from Welcome.
- "What does the Bible say about immigration?" video from CRCNA Office of Social Justice

RACISM

Read
- Be the Bridge: Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation by Latasha Morrison
- So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo
- How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi
- Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi

Watch & Listen
- "Just Mercy" film
- "13th" documentary
- "Race in America" video from The Holy Post

More
- Take the Implicit Bias Test from Harvard University

POVERTY & VIOLENCE

Read
- The Locust Effect: Why the End of Poverty Requires the End of Violence by Gary Haugen and Victor Boutros
- Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

Read
- And Social Justice for All: Empowering Families, Churches, and Schools to Make a Difference in God's World by Lisa Van Engen

More
- Compassion International's Explorer activities for kids
- IJM's family resources
Thank you for leading a *Call for Justice* book study! We hope it has been a helpful resource for both you and your group and has sparked a desire to do justice.

One of the first steps in doing justice is being informed. We would love to keep you connected to our work in Honduras and more opportunities to get involved.

**TELL US HOW IT WENT**

We want to hear about how it went for your group, what stood out to you about the book, and what your group's next steps are. Your insights will also help us know how to make this resource helpful. Please reach out to Alison Wabeke (alison@ajs-us.org) if you'd be willing to share your thoughts with us.

**SEND US A PICTURE OF YOUR GROUP**

We would love to use your photo to promote this book study. Email us a photo of your group!

**REVIEW THE BOOK ON AMAZON**

Leave a review on Amazon to help others learn about the book.

**SIGN UP FOR UPDATES AND FOLLOW US**

The best way to stay up to date on justice in Honduras is by signing up for our email updates or following us on social media. Click on the icons below to sign up or follow us!

**BECOME A JUSTICE PARTNER**

Justice Partners are a committed group of supporters dedicated to building a more just society. Click below to learn more about how you can join this monthly giving community.