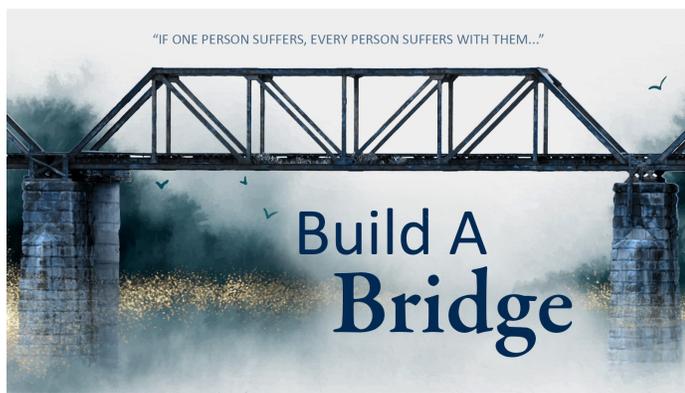


# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect



## Doing Justice

March 21, 2021

Racial justice and reconciliation won't just happen. We are called to "do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God." (Micah 6:8) Doing justice calls us to confront the systems that give advantage to some and disadvantage others. Prophets like Isaiah and Malachi did that work. So did Jesus. And now we are called to continue the biblical tradition of seeking justice for all people.

### SCRIPTURE TEXT: MICAH 6:3-8

Read the scripture text together as a group.

### BACKGROUND INFO

Micah lived at a time when corruption had infected the leaders of Israel. God had commanded the Israelites to care for the poor and the powerless. To protect the orphan, the widow and the alien in their midst. But the leaders of Israel, the rich and the powerful, created systems that took advantage of the poor and powerless. And God, through the prophet Micah, confronted the leaders and their injustice, and called them to repent. What does the Lord require? That we do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God.

There are two kinds of justice. It's important that we understand the difference so that we "do" the appropriate kind of justice in a given circumstance. The kind of justice that we are most familiar with is called retributive justice. Retributive justice is giving people what they deserve, the balance of crime and punishment. This is the kind of justice that our court system is built upon. The other kind of justice is called restorative justice. Restorative justice is about giving people what they need to thrive. More often than not, when Scripture talks about justice it is referring to restorative justice. Read the bible and you'll discover that God's definition of justice is not "people getting what they deserve". God's definition is people getting what they need to be whole in body, mind and spirit. It's not that God turns a blind eye to sin, but that God is more interested in restoration than in retribution. So, when God requires that we "do justice," God is primarily asking that we advocate for and provide for the powerless, the voiceless, the impoverished and oppressed people in this world.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Were you aware of the two types of justice? Share a time when you have witnessed each.
- What is Micah teaching us in this passage?
- How might "doing justice" set us on the path of racial reconciliation?
- Why is this an important next step on our journey?

**APPLICATION:** This week, pray for discernment from God as to how you can put this into action in your life. What is one step you can take to "do justice" in the world around you?