

# Vineyard Women Mentoring Month Four

## Social Justice and Leadership

### Introduction:

As citizens in God's kingdom, how does Jesus' explicit call for us to join in his mission, as defined in Luke 4:18, shape and affect how we understand our roles as church leaders?

From The Message

“God’s Spirit is on me;  
he’s chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor,  
Sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and  
recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set the burdened and battered free,  
to announce, “This is God’s year to act!”  
He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the place was on him, intent. Then he started in, “You’ve just heard Scripture make history. It came true just now in this place.”

### Discussion Questions

1. In The Good News About Injustice, Gary Haugen, the president of International Justice Mission, writes, “Injustice occurs when power is misused to take from others what God has given them, namely, their life, dignity, liberty or the fruits of their love and labor.” In other words, injustice is fundamentally about an abuse of power.
2. What is your personal experience with abuse of power?
3. What are your community’s experiences with abuses of power?
4. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to understand the injustices in your community? Can you identify them?
5. What tools/resources are you using to help identify injustice? What do you need to help you?
6. Micah 6:8 sums up the themes of all the great Old Testament prophets with this verse, “He has shown all you people what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” We are called to love mercy—to love receiving and giving mercy. We are called do justice—to administrate justice and act on behalf of those who need things set right.

7. Do you lean more quickly towards mercy or justice? Why? How might God be speaking to you in leading you towards what is more challenging?
8. For both the Old Testament prophets and for Jesus, to “do justice” and to “pursue righteousness” are synonyms. As we seek to follow and obey Jesus Christ and proclaim the good News of his kingdom, we come to understand that “loving mercy” and “doing justice” are non-negotiables in his Kingdom ethics.
9. When we talk about evangelism, we understand that evangelism is an inherently public witness, one that we cannot do in secret. How does this help or challenge you to consider the ways you are called to do justice in a public way?
10. Eugene Peterson describes Jesus as the most political figure you’ll ever know, but not political in a way that anyone expects. How does a Kingdom call to doing justice challenge you to consider engaging politically, but perhaps in a way that is unexpected?

Consider that through the Old Testament prophets, God opposes the exploitation of people and the poor by the wealthy and powerful

  - Consider that through Jesus and his apostles, God opposes structures and systems that try to keep us divided, isolated, separated by race, how much or how little we make, gender, age