

# Vineyard Women Mentoring

## 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?

"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."

Micah 6:8 (Message Translation) 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.

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-negotiable in his Kingdom ethics.

### ICE BREAKER QUESTION

When was the first time you heard the words of Luke 4:18 or Isaiah 61? If you heard it in a sermon or a teaching, how was it interpreted? If you read it on your own, what impact did those words have on you?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In light of Micah 6:8, What comes more naturally to you, to give mercy or administrate justice?
2. How might that connect to your upbringing and experiences?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

3. Do you feel God could be speaking to you in leading you towards what is more challenging?
4. 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.
5. What is your personal experience with abuse of power?
6. What are your community’s experiences with abuses of power?
7. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to understand the injustices in your community? Can you identify them? Ex: lack of affordable housing, large socio-economic gaps, under-resourced schools, racial profiling, mass incarceration
8. What tools/resources are you using to help identify injustice? What do you need to help you?
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 giving mercy and doing justice challenge you to consider engaging politically, but perhaps in a way that is unexpected?

## RECOMMENDED READING

- Vineyard Justice Network: VJN exists to empower Vineyard pastors and leaders to pursue and enact the justice of God's kingdom. VJN is dedicated to showcasing the work of Vineyard churches as they confront injustice, create solutions, and share their struggles. **[www.vineyardjusticenetwork.org](http://www.vineyardjusticenetwork.org)**
- Pentecostals & Charismatics for Peace & Justice (PCPJ): PCPJ is a multicultural, gender inclusive, and ecumenical organization that promotes peace, justice, and reconciliation work among Pentecostal and Charismatic Christians around the world. Our mission: To encourage, enable, and sustain peace-making and justice-seeking as authentic and integral parts of Pentecostal-Charismatic Christianity. **[www.pcpj.org](http://www.pcpj.org)**
- Evangelicals for Social Action: ESA serves as a catalyzing agent for Christ's shalom via projects focused on cultural renewal, holistic ministry, political reflection and action, social justice and reconciliation, and creation care. [www.evangelicalsforsocialaction.org](http://www.evangelicalsforsocialaction.org)
- The Justice God is Seeking, David Ruis
- Slow Kingdom Coming: Practices for Doing Justice, Loving Mercy and Walking Humbly in the World, Kent Annan
- Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition, Christine Pohl
- Toxic Charity, Robert Lupton
- Nickered and Dimered: On (Not) Getting By in America, Barbara Ehrenreich
- Welcoming Justice: God's Movement Toward Beloved Community, John M. Perkins and Charles Marsh