



A Reader's Guide

How is God calling you, your community, and your church to respond to his passion for justice? And what will it take for you to engage God's passion with persevering hope?

Wherever you are in answering that question and wherever you are on the road to seeking God's kingdom of justice and righteousness, our prayer is that you would join with others and be encouraged and strengthened in the midst of reading this book and using this guide. God's passion for justice saturates Scripture, and it is our prayer that his passion and his Word will sink deep and take root in your soul. We pray your thoughts and conversations will be stirred in a way that will allow you to engage in God's heart for justice in new and fresh ways.

As you engage with *The Justice Calling*, ask God to give you an open mind and a soft heart as you read of unfathomable evils, to anchor you in the hope of Jesus Christ, and to propel you to action, joining God's invitation into His work of redeeming this world. Lean into the words, engage the questions, and do so honestly with community around you.

Even the act of reading this book and working through it in community is an act of faith. The path of faithfulness is not always clear, but our God is with us – behind us, before us, within us – leading each step of the way. And our God loves to fill us with his strength and persevering hope as we go with him into his world.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV)



Chapter 1: Engage the Whole Story

1. Do you remember the first time you encountered or came face to face with injustice in this world? What was that experience like?
2. “What is the basis for your sense that things can and ought to be different? And what can you do?”¹
3. How can you daily remind yourself that this work of justice is God’s and that he is the one who empowers you and sustains you? What could this look like in your life?²
4. Read through and answer the questions in “How Will You Engage the Story?” on page 33.
5. What is personally motivating you to engage in seeking justice?

¹ Page 11

² Page 30



Chapter 2: Receive God's Vision of Flourishing

1. What are your thoughts on the idea of not only receiving and practicing Sabbath, but extending it and being a part of inviting others to receive it as well?³ What could this look like, in practical, regular ways, in your own life?
2. On page 44, Kristen talks about her understanding of Christianity as a child. She discusses how she believed her relationship with God was “disconnected from the earthly realities of life,”⁴ but she ultimately came to realize that God calls us to be tangibly engaged in *this* world as we respond to God's invitation to seek justice and shalom. Can you relate to Kristen's experience? Do you believe God is calling us to be engaged in this world with Kingdom vision?
3. How can joy and rest be consistent companions on your journey of justice? What practice could you bring into your life to remind you of the invitation to joy and rest?
4. Respond to the questions asked on the bottom of page 48.

³ Page 39

⁴ Page 44



Chapter 3: Move toward Darkness

1. What emotions, conflict, or arguments arise for you when you consider the call to “move toward the darkness” of this world?⁵
2. If you are already on the journey, how have you moved or are you moving toward the darkness?
3. In what ways are you leaning into the light of Christ to combat evil?
4. What do you think about the idea of acknowledging and lamenting not just personal sins, but the sins of this world to God? How might that impact your prayer life? How might that impact the way you view your role in the world?⁶

⁵ Page 74-78; *Just Courage* by Gary Haugen, Chapter 7

⁶ Page 63



Chapter 4: Lament

1. How might you be a leader in your community who chooses to answer the call to live God's justice and righteousness, and invite others to join? In what ways can we practically make this a reality?⁷
2. Have you encountered injustice or suffering – whether in your own life or the lives of others – that has tempted you to move away from God? In what ways can you learn from Habakkuk's relentless pursuit of God amidst suffering?⁸
3. What "why" questions are you wrestling with today that you need to bring to God?
4. As David did in Psalm 77, how can you daily choose to position yourself in a place where you can remember who God is, his faithfulness and what he has done? How can you also do this in community?

⁷ Page 97

⁸ Page 98-104



Chapter 5: Live as Saints (Not Heroes)

1. Do you believe engagement in the work of justice should be fruit in the lives of all who follow Jesus?
2. How would you describe the difference between hero and saint? Practically, what does that difference manifest in your own life? In your church's life?
3. Why does it matter that Jesus Christ has set, is setting, and will set all things right as we think about our justice calling?
4. What does it mean to rely on Jesus as prophet, priest, *and* king in this justice journey?



Chapter 6: Be Sanctified and Sent

1. What do you think you can learn from the journey of John Newton as you consider your justice calling today? Consider your own life, your local church, and the church overall.
2. Did you recognize the “barriers to biblical mission” that are named on pages 152-156? How have you seen them play out in your own life and in the life of churches of which you’ve been a part? How have you seen them overcome?
3. “Recognizing that all we have been given comes from God, we offer our gifts, our relationships, our time, our paid and unpaid callings, and our money back to God so that we can seek God’s kingdom and God’s justice and righteousness wherever we are and and whatever we are doing.”⁹ What gifts and callings do you believe you could offer to God for the work of justice? What gifts and callings do you think your church uniquely could offer for God’s work of justice?
4. We need to keep in mind that the work of justice is a long road and one that will require the gifts of perseverance, community, and hope. Take time to pray with your group for those three gifts over this justice journey, whether you are at the beginning or years down the road.

⁹ Page 143



Chapter 7: Persevere in Hope

1. What role do you believe prayer plays in the work of justice? In what ways could you engage prayer more seamlessly in your daily life? And with others?
2. If you truly believed that the hope of Christ is in each of us and that you are called to give an account for that hope, how would that impact the way you seek justice and engage God's heart for this world?¹⁰
3. "Understanding Christ's ultimate redemption of all things helps us to live into our calling here and now—to love God and others with justice and righteousness, meeting needs that are inextricably spiritual and physical."¹¹ Do you agree or disagree? Why?
4. Discuss the questions asked on page 184: "How do you become a person whose life reflects God's hopeful vision of reconciliation? How do you become a person who lives with active love and persevering hope for the victims and the perpetrators of injustice?"¹²
5. Why are you engaged in seeking justice? Compare your answer to the first time we asked this question at the beginning of this guide.

¹⁰ Page 171

¹¹ Page 179

¹² Page 184



In Closing: Abide in Jesus

1. What is one step forward you sense God inviting you to make after reading this book?
2. What one story, statistic, or piece of Scripture could you share with others as you invite them to engage the justice calling in their own lives?
3. What is one teaching, truth, passage of Scripture, or illustration you want to carry with you intentionally into this next season of your life? Write it down, post it on your mirror, your dashboard, your laptop – anywhere you can see it regularly and be reminded of God's passion for justice, his faithfulness, and the persevering hope to which he is calling you.