

## **FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDES**

### **GUIDE 1: JUSTICE**

*(Paired with Sermon Outline #1)*

- ***A righteous and just family***
  - Watch [Justice](#).
  - Read Genesis 18:17-19.
  - How do you think Abraham was to teach his family about righteousness and justice? What types of practices might that have involved?
- ***Righteousness and justice are the ways of the Lord.***
  - Read Psalm 33:4-5.
  - Why do you think God loves righteousness and justice?
  - How does God show his justice throughout the biblical story?
- ***Abraham is called to teach his family righteousness and justice so that these ways of life will flow from them out to the nations.***
  - Read Isaiah 41:8-10, 42:1-7.
  - What do the similarities in these passages suggest about who the servant is?
  - How will this servant bring justice to the nations?
- ***Jesus is the model of what a just member of Abraham's family looks like.***
  - Read Luke 4:16-19.
  - How does Jesus show justice in how he acts toward others?
  - Note that both Isaiah 42:1 and Luke 4:18 (quoting Isaiah 61:1) mention how God's Spirit gives people power to do good. How does the Spirit help people to live justly toward others?
  - What might it look like for you to practice giving good gifts to others in need this week, to talk about the good news of God's kingdom with someone, or to help care and pray for someone who is sick in your community?
  - ***Concluding Prayer***

"O Lord, open my eyes that I may see the needs of others  
Open my ears that I may hear their cries;  
Open my heart so that they need not be without succor;  
Let me not be afraid to defend the weak because of the anger of the strong,  
Nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich.  
Show me where love and hope and faith are needed,  
And use me to bring them to those places.  
And so open my eyes and my ears  
That I may this coming day be able to do some work of peace for thee."  
—Alan Paton, "Life Prayers from Around the World"

## GUIDE 2: GENEROSITY

(Paired with Sermon Outline #2)

- **Investing through generosity**
  - Watch [Generosity](#).
  - Read Luke 12:32-34.
  - People often talk about using money to make more money. How do Jesus' words compare to this?
- **God gives many good gifts to us.**
  - Read Luke 12:22-31.
  - When you look at the world around you, do you see a world that is full of good gifts? Why or why not?
  - What do the pictures of God as shepherd and father communicate about his care for you?
  - Can you think of a time when God gave good gifts to you or provided for your needs?
- **We can use the things God has given us to spread his kingdom.**
  - Read Luke 12:15-21 and 1 Timothy 6:17-19.
  - What do you think is the difference between wisely preparing for your future and storing up treasures for yourself?
  - Why is it so tempting to store up treasures for ourselves? What kind of life does it lead to?
  - What do you think God gives us in return when we invest in God's kingdom by giving to those in need? What kind of life does it lead to in the future? And what kind of life does it give us right now?
- **How we use what we have reveals and shapes our hearts.**
  - Read 1 John 3:16-18.
  - How does Jesus reveal what's in his heart?
  - Take a minute to reflect on how you spend your money and time and what that reveals about your heart. How well do the things you choose to spend money on line up with what you think is important?
  - When our hearts aren't lined up with God's, the spiritual practice of giving generously can help us realign our hearts. Can you think of a time when you gave to a person or organization and it gave you a bigger heart for them or drew you closer to God? What was that experience like?
- **Concluding prayer**
  - Father, everything we have comes from your hand. May we hold it all with open hands as you show us what you want us to do with it. Shape our hearts to make us generous like you, and open our eyes to see where you're inviting us to give. Amen.

## GUIDE 3: COMPASSION

(Paired with Sermon Outline #3)

- **Our compassionate God**
  - Watch [Compassion](#).
  - Read Exodus 34:6.
  - What stands out to you most about God's description of himself in this passage?
  - Can you think of someone who is really compassionate? How do they show their compassion?
- **God shows compassion toward his people like a mother.**
  - Read Exodus 34:8-10 and Isaiah 49:15-16.
  - Note that in Exodus 19-32, Israel accepted a covenant relationship with God but immediately broke it by making a golden calf idol. How does this background shape our understanding of God's compassion in Exodus 34?
  - In what ways does God's comparison of himself to a nursing mother affect our understanding of him and our experience of his compassionate care?
- **Jesus shows God's compassion in his ministry on Earth.**
  - Read Matthew 9:35-38.
  - In what ways do you see God's tender heart toward humanity communicated through Jesus, either in this passage or elsewhere in his earthly ministry?
  - How have you (as an individual or as a community) experienced Jesus' compassion?
- **God calls us to be like him in our compassion.**
  - Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4.
  - How might God's compassion toward us motivate us to comfort others?
  - Think of someone in your family or community who needs to experience God's compassionate comfort this week. How might you bring God's comfort to them?
- **Concluding prayer**
  - Lord, help us to know your compassion for us. May we experience your tender care even in the face of our mistakes. May we feel the comfort of your protective wings gathering us to you. Forgive us for the times when we have been hardhearted toward you and others. Teach us to be compassionate like you and care generously for everyone — even our enemies. Help us to rest in the comfort of your embrace and bring your comfort to those around us today. Amen.