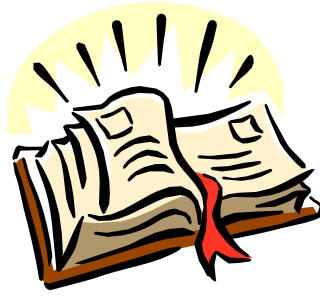


The Biblical Justice Challenge



INSTRUCTIONS

In your small group, use your Bible to find answers to the following questions. This is a competition that involves prizes, and you will be judged on both how quickly you can accomplish the task and the quality of your end-product. Here are ways you can gain points:

Time: The 1st group done gets 70 points, the 2nd group gets 50, the 3rd group 30, and the 4th group 20 points.

Accuracy: You get 10 points for every correct answer.

Quality: You can get up to 70 points for answers that are high quality, on-target, and complete, that answer what the question asks for, and that would be convincing to a reader new to the Bible.

Hints: Each group has 2 “hint” cards that can be used if you need help. If you don’t need to use them, you get 20 points for every hint card that you still have left at the end of the game.

Legibility: If you don’t write legibly, your answers won’t count. If everything is written clearly, you get 20 free points.

Persuasiveness: You can earn up to 50 additional points if, at the end of this activity, your group can explain persuasively to others how the Bible calls people of faith to work for justice and what that looks like.

RULES

- Work together, as a team.
- Hand in only *one* completed worksheet per team.
- You cannot use the same answer more than once.
- When a question asks for you to “name a place in the Bible where...” or “name a passage where it says...,” your answer must provide the book, chapter, and verse(s) *as well as either the direct quote or a summary* of what you found there.
- If you get stuck on a question, each group has three “hint” cards that you can use to get a clue. Bring your hint card to the front of the room to receive your clue.

6. Name 3 of Jesus' parables that are about the way we should treat others. Please provide book, chapter, and verse and summarize the parable.

i.

ii.

iii.

7. What does Jesus teach his disciples are the most important commandments? Where does it say this?

8. Name 3 places in the Gospels where Jesus' words or actions demonstrate his concern for the poor or vulnerable.

i.

ii.

iii.

9. Name 1 of the places in the New Testament letters (such as 1 Corinthians or James) where the Christian communities are chastised for not treating the poor as equals during the Eucharistic meal.

10. Name the place in James' letter in which he discusses the connection between "faith" and "works." What is the relationship between the two?

The Biblical Justice Challenge – LEADER’S GUIDE

*Note: The answers listed are **examples** of ways participants might answer the questions. Since there are hundreds of places in Scripture that exhort people of faith to work for justice, it is likely that participants may find additional, relevant passages beyond those listed. If participants cite a passage not listed below, the leader should check to make sure that it is appropriate and relevant. When groups bring you their “Hint” cards, you can use the suggested answers below to make up hints. For example, if a group needs help with Question 2, you might write on the card, “Look in Genesis 1.”*

1. Name a place in the Bible where we see that the human person is made in God’s own image or that he or she is created with dignity.

Genesis 1:26-31 (God said: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”)

Psalms 8:5-7 (Humans made “little less than a god”)

1 Corinthians 15:22 (Christ died for all)

2. Name 2 places in the Old Testament law books (such as Exodus, Leviticus, or Deuteronomy) where the people of God are commanded to help those who are poor or vulnerable.

Social laws to protect human dignity, including laws protecting migrants, widows, orphans, debtors, laborers, and poor persons are found in: Leviticus 19:9-15, 18, 33-34 35-36; 25:23-28, Deuteronomy 14:22-29; 15:1-18; 24:10-22; 26:12-13; and Exodus 22:20-22; 24-26, as well as in many other places.

3. Find 2 places in which one of the prophets (Isaiah, Amos, Jeremiah, etc.) tells the people that God cares about their actions toward the hungry, oppressed, widow, stranger, or orphan.

Isaiah 10:1-4 (Woe to those who are unjust to the poor, widow and orphan)

Isaiah 2:4, Micah 4:1-4 (The nations will beat their swords into plowshares)

Isaiah 58:3-12 (Do not mistreat laborers, give bread to the hungry)

Isaiah 61 (The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim liberty, recover sight, etc.)

Amos 4:1-2 (Do not oppress the weak and needy)

Amos 5:21-24 (Rather than your offerings, let justice surge)

Jeremiah 5:26-29 (Criticizing the powerful for not defending the poor)

4. Name one passage from the Bible that could help us to recognize why we should care for creation.

Genesis 2:15 (Humans cultivate the earth)

Psalms 8:1-10 (When we see the works of the Creator, we praise him)

Psalms 104 (Praises the beauty of creation and glory of the Creator)

Daniel 3:52-90 (The heavens and earth, all creatures and humanity bless the Lord)

Leviticus 25:3-5 (Land should be allowed to rest, not be exploited)

- 5. In what book, chapter and verse in the Gospels does Jesus proclaim the following? “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, / because he has anointed me / to bring glad tidings to the poor. / He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives / and recovery of sight to the blind, / to let the oppressed go free, / and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.”**

Luke 4:14-24

- 6. Name 3 of Jesus’ parables that are about the way we should treat others. Please provide book, chapter, and verse and summarize the parable.**

Luke 14:12-14 (When you give a banquet, invite those who are poor and lame)

Luke 10:25-37 (The Good Samaritan)

Luke 16:19-31 (Lazarus and the rich man)

Mark 10:17-31 (Parable of the rich man)

- 7. What does Jesus teach his disciples are the most important commandments? Where does it say this?**

An alternate way of asking the question is “How does Jesus sum up the whole teaching regarding love of God and neighbor?”

Matthew 22:34-39 – Love of God and neighbor

- 8. Name 3 places in the Gospels where Jesus’ words or actions demonstrate his concern for the poor or vulnerable.**

Matthew 25:31-46 (Sheep and Goats)

Luke 6:17-26 (Sermon on the Mount)

John 4:4-30 (Samaritan woman at the well)

John 13:1-15 (Jesus washes the disciples’ feet)

Matthew 5:38-48 (Love both neighbor and enemy)

Luke 6:27-36 (Love your enemies)

Mark 1:29-34, 1:40-45, 2:1-12, 3:1-6, 5:21-43, 7:24-37, 8:22-26, 10:46-52; Matthew 8:1-18, 9:1-8, 9:18-34, 12:9-14, 15:21-31, and 20:29-34; Luke 4:38-41, 5:12-32, 6:6-11, 7:1-10, 8:40-56, 13:10-17, 14:1-6, 17:11-19, and 18:35-43; and John 4:46-54, 5:1-18, 9:1-41 (Healing stories)

- 9. Name 1 of the places in the New Testament letters (such as 1 Corinthians or James) where the Christian communities are chastised for not treating the poor as equals during the Eucharistic meal.**

1 Corinthians 11: 17-33 (Abuses during Eucharistic meal)

James 2:1-13 (Sin of partiality)

- 10. Name the place in James’ letter in which he discusses the connection between “faith” and “works.” What is the relationship between the two?**

James 2:14-26 (Faith without works is dead)

HINT CARD

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