

## **Biblical Justice and Advocacy: study prompts**

### ***What does the Word say about justice?***

#### ***Hebrew Scripture:***

##### **Deuteronomy 10:18**

"He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the alien by giving him food and clothing.

##### **Deuteronomy 24:17**

"You shall not pervert the justice due an alien or an orphan, nor take a widow's garment in pledge.

##### **Deuteronomy 27:19**

'Cursed is he who distorts the justice due an alien, orphan, and widow.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

##### **Amos 5:24**

But let **justice** roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

##### **Zechariah 7:9-10**

"Thus has the LORD of hosts said, 'Dispense true justice and practice kindness and compassion each to his brother; and do not oppress the widow or the orphan, the stranger or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.'

##### **Jeremiah 22:3**

'Thus says the LORD, "Do justice and righteousness, and deliver the one who has been robbed from the power of his oppressor Also do not mistreat or do violence to the stranger, the orphan, or the widow; and do not shed innocent blood in this place.

##### **Isaiah 1:17**

Learn to do good; Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless, Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow.

##### **Isaiah 58:6-12**

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.' If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. ...

**Micah 6:8**

He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?

***Proverbs*****Proverbs 31:8-9**

Open your mouth for the mute, For the rights of all the unfortunate. Open your mouth, judge righteously, And defend the rights of the afflicted and needy.

**Proverbs 29:7**

The righteous is concerned for the rights of the poor, The wicked does not understand such concern.

**Proverbs 28:27**

He who gives to the poor will never want, But he who shuts his eyes will have many curses.

***New Testament*****James 1:27**

Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

**Romans 12:15-18**

Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly Do not be wise in your own estimation. Never pay back evil for evil to anyone Respect what is right in the sight of all men.*read more.*

**Matthew 7:12**

"In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

**Psalm 82:3**

Vindicate the weak and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and destitute.

**1 John 3:17**

"If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

## ***What does the Word say about how we are to treat the “stranger” among us?***

### ***Hebrew Scripture***

#### **Exodus 12:49**

There shall be one law for the native and for the stranger who sojourns among you.”

#### **Deuteronomy 10:19**

Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

#### **Exodus 23:9**

“You shall not oppress a sojourner. You know the heart of a sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

#### **Leviticus 19:33-34**

“When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

#### **Leviticus 24:22**

You shall have the same rule for the sojourner and for the native, for I am the LORD your God.”

#### **Leviticus 25:35-38**

“If your brother becomes poor and cannot maintain himself with you, you shall support him as though he were a stranger and a sojourner, and he shall live with you. Take no interest from him or profit, but fear your God, that your brother may live beside you. You shall not lend him your money at interest, nor give him your food for profit. I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan, and to be your God.

#### **Deuteronomy 15:7-11**

If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be. Take care lest there be an unworthy thought in your heart and you say, ‘The seventh year, the year of release is near,’ and your eye look grudgingly on your poor brother, and you give him nothing, and he cry to the LORD against you, and you be guilty of sin. You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, ‘You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.’

### ***New Testament***

#### **Matthew 25:40**

“The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’

**Luke 10:30-37**

Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

**Galatians 3:28**

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

**3 John 1:5**

Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are,

## ***What does the Word say about my neighbor?***

### ***Hebrew Scripture***

#### **Deuteronomy 15.11:**

Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.'

#### **Deuteronomy 27.24:**

'Cursed be anyone who strikes down a neighbor in secret.' All the people shall say, 'Amen!'

#### **Leviticus 6: 1-5**

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: When any of you sin and commit a trespass against the LORD by deceiving a neighbor in a matter of a deposit or a pledge, or by robbery, or if you have defrauded a neighbor, or have found something lost and lied about it—if you swear falsely regarding any of the various things that one may do and sin thereby—when you have sinned and realize your guilt, and would restore what you took by robbery or by fraud or the deposit that was committed to you, or the lost thing that you found, or anything else about which you have sworn falsely, you shall repay the principal amount and shall add one-fifth to it. You shall pay it to its owner when you realize your guilt.

#### **Leviticus 19:16-18**

You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord. "You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

#### **Leviticus 25.14:**

When you make a sale to your neighbor or buy from your neighbor, you shall not cheat one another.

#### **Proverbs 24.28:**

Do not be a witness against your neighbor without cause, and do not deceive with your lips.

#### **Ecclesiasticus 22.23:**

Gain the trust of your **neighbor** in his poverty, so that you may rejoice with him in his prosperity. Stand by him in time of distress, so that you may share with him in his inheritance.

## ***New Testament***

### **Matthew 7:12**

“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

### **Matthew 22:39**

"The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

### **Mark 12:31**

(Jesus said), “The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

### **Luke 6:31**

And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

### **Luke 10:27**

And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”

### **Romans 13:9**

For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

### **Romans 13:10**

Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

### **Romans 15:2**

Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

### **Galatians 3:28**

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

### **Galatians 5:14**

For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

### **James 2:8**

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.