

SEPTEMBER 15 & 16

JUSTICE VS. SHALOM

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CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION

Pastor Jesse Tink continues our series on engaging with a divided culture with the message "Justice vs. Shalom." Although it may be tempting to take matters into our own hands and fix the world for God, it's not our responsibility to do so. Jesus has already made a better place in this world, and our job is to embrace, display and proclaim God's Kingdom.

DISCUSSION

1. Read **Matthew 5:43-48** and **2 Corinthians 4:7**. What does this tell us about displaying the love of Jesus to the ordinary, flawed people we find in the church? Why should this be our highest priority?
2. Pastor Jesse said, "When Christians begin substituting activism for discipleship, it's not the world that becomes endangered but the Gospel." Discuss what this statement means to you. How does this affect the way we engage with the world and imperfect people in our churches? How can you be a better disciple?
3. Read **Isaiah 2:2-3**, **Isaiah 49:6** and **Matthew 28:18-20**. We are called to proclaim the Gospel to the nations and those around us. Talk about the challenges you face in sharing your faith and the steps you will take to be more transparent about how Jesus has transformed your life.
4. Read **Isaiah 32:15-20**. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is righteousness resulting in peaceful hearts even though we live in an imperfect world. Discuss how you have seen this truth at work in your own life.

DO SOMETHING

1. **LEARN:** Read **Luke 4:16-21** and "What Are We Doing Here?" Write down what you learned about living in a way that reflects the biblical view of peace and justice. What steps will you take to support God's work of renewal in creation and people's lives?
2. **INCLUDE:** What will you do this week to promote peace and harmony in your family in a way that reflects Jesus' presence in your life?
3. **BLESS:** **Micah 6:8** instructs us "to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God," which impacts how we think, talk and act. Commit to displaying the love and mercy of Jesus to someone in your circle whom you've been avoiding.

RESOURCES

Resources on #1 and #2 are available on RightNow Media. Set up your *free* account!

1. Justice is based on God's character of love and compassion for humanity, and that same character should motivate justice in our hearts. Learn more in the video *Jesus and Justice*.
2. In *Develop a Biblical Framework*, Pastor Luis Mendez explains although it may be tempting to rely on outside forces to deliver justice in this broken world, the only way to achieve holistic peace is for Jesus to transform lives from the inside out.
3. *Fighting with My Husband* and *the Work of Shalom* reminds us the practice of reconciliation should start with those nearest us.