



**HARBOR  
CITY  
CHURCH**

## **40 Days of Prayer for Racial and Political Reconciliation in Our Country Before the November 3 Election**

This guide was compiled to guide you through scripture and a time of reflection as **we seek God's heart for political and racial reconciliation** in our city and country. Our prayer is that through this 40-day journey leading up to the November election, we would make space for the word of God and the Spirit of God to change how we see and respond to our world that needs the hope of Jesus Christ. We received this guide from our brothers and sisters at Missio Portland ([www.missioportland.org](http://www.missioportland.org)) and we've made some adjustments to reflect the time that we find ourselves in.

Our cities and country are deeply divided. There is so much animosity, and with the election coming it feels like it's only going to get worse. We long to see God's Spirit move and create a way forward for His people to be united in the midst of the chaos. We long to see racial and political reconciliation, and we know that this is something only God can do. We don't want to "get political" with this emphasis on prayer, so our devotions are focused on racial reconciliation. But as you pray, please also pray for God's Spirit to bring reconciliation to our polarizing political landscape.

### **What you'll need:**

- Journal/Paper and a pen
- Bible

### **Instructions:**

1. Read through the devotion of the week.
2. Then read the passage of the day.
3. In your journal or on paper begin the abiding process through SOAP.

### **SCRIPTURE**

- What gets your attention from the scripture of the day?
- Write it down. Why? We begin the abiding process as we write.
- As you write it down, you slow down and give God room to speak.

*Note: Don't feel pressure to "study." You're listening to what God is saying to you through this.*

### **OBSERVATION**

- What **1** thing is God highlighting to you through the scripture?
- What do you see or hear God saying or doing?
- To start, write just a sentence or two in 1<sup>st</sup> person, speaking to God who is with you.

*Example - Father, I am reminded of your great and perfect love for me. You are a generous and giving God! Thank you for giving me the gift of life and freedom in Jesus!*

### **ACTION**

- How is God inviting you to be like Jesus or do like Jesus?
- Make action tangible, measurable, and doable - something you can do. Make it simple!
- The small things are the big things! Faithfulness in the little things leads to much fruitfulness.

### **PRAYER**

- Write out your prayer to God in response to what you have read, observed and desire to take action upon.
- When we spend time with God in his word, He changes us so that we can image Him in our lives.

## **Week 1 (September 24-29): Justice**

Life is all about relationships. Most of the time, friction arises in relationships because of misunderstandings. One person sees a situation one way, but the other person sees it another way. Each person can't figure out why the other person can't see the situation like they see it, and sometimes these situations become huge arguments. The problem lies in the fact that sometimes we look at situations in different ways because we think differently than other people.

Justice is a term that different people understand differently because of their different perspectives. Biblical justice is the equitable and impartial application of the rule of God's moral law in society. There is no clear and right definition of justice that excludes God. So to grasp justice, we must go to God's Word. The Bible condemns injustice because God is just. As the ultimate lawgiver, He strongly opposes injustice. His laws are righteous and must be applied without partiality because justice identifies the moral standard by which God measures human conduct.

So at the heart of Biblical justice is the impartial application of God's moral law within all realms of society including economic, political, social or criminal justice. Any other definition of justice won't suffice.

What enters your mind when you hear the phrase "social justice"? As you are led, pray for racial and political reconciliation.

**Day 1 Deuteronomy 32:3-4** <sup>3</sup> For I will proclaim the name of the LORD; ascribe greatness to our God!  
<sup>4</sup> "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.

**Day 2 James 4:12** <sup>12</sup> There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

**Day 3 Psalm 19:7-9** <sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; <sup>8</sup> the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; <sup>9</sup> the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.

**Day 4 Deuteronomy 1:17** You shall not be partial in judgment. You shall hear the small and the great alike. You shall not be intimidated by anyone, for the judgment is God's. And the case that is too hard for you, you shall bring to me, and I will hear it.'

**Day 5 Psalm 82:3-4** <sup>3</sup> Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. <sup>4</sup> Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."

**Day 6 Luke 4:18-20** <sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, <sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." <sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

## **Week 2 (September 30 - October 6): Ethnicity in the Story of God**

At Pentecost and Revelation, we get a glimpse into the heart of a God who sees every language, culture, and race or ethnicity. However, our churches often avoid the topic of ethnicity and race because we don't think it's relevant to our faith, or we're afraid of offending people and trying to avoid being "political." More often than not, we don't know how to talk about it and withdraw from conversations about race or ethnicity. We lack the skills, language, and understanding to be able to share the gospel in our diverse and divided contexts.

Buying into colorblindness, we do not examine the Scriptures' rich depth of insight into God's creation and intent for ethnicity, and we lack biblical literacy on the issue, leading to a lack of theological reflection, formation, and repentance. The result? We either deny ethnicity as valuable or bought into the secular world's understanding of ethnicity.

This robs us of the opportunity to hear the stories of people who are ethnically different from us. Our lack of ethnic-identity understanding, for ourselves and for those around us, leads us to proclaim a gospel that is irrelevant or powerless in addressing real aches, pains, and questions. Racially and culturally unaware witness and involvement in our communities cause distrust. Sometimes we do more harm than good and push people away from us—away from opportunities to hear the gospel and away from trusting Jesus. The results are a distant and often irrelevant, unaffected church.

But the Christian story is one that acknowledges our fundamental brokenness. Why would the realm of ethnicity and race be exempt from the influence of sin? We need something beyond colorblindness, something that both values beauty in our cultures and also addresses real problems that still exist in our society decades after the civil rights movement. Our world is in need of the gospel—a good news that is not afraid of addressing ethnic differences. And we need Christian voices to call for change and reform—with Jesus as the transforming center of it all.

What can you do to see the beauty of other cultures? As you are led, pray for racial and political reconciliation.

**Day 7 Acts 22:3-21** <sup>3</sup> "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day. <sup>4</sup> I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, <sup>5</sup> as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished. <sup>6</sup> "As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. <sup>7</sup> And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' <sup>8</sup> And I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.' <sup>9</sup> Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me. <sup>10</sup> And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.' <sup>11</sup> And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus. <sup>12</sup> "And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, <sup>13</sup> came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. <sup>14</sup> And he said, 'The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; <sup>15</sup> for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. <sup>16</sup> And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.' <sup>17</sup> "When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance <sup>18</sup> and saw him saying to me, 'Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.' <sup>19</sup> And I said, 'Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you. <sup>20</sup> And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.' <sup>21</sup> And he said to me, 'Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"

**Day 8 John 4:9-10** <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

**Day 9 Galatians 3:27-28** <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup> 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.

**Day 10 James 2:1-9** My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. <sup>2</sup> For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, <sup>3</sup> and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," <sup>4</sup> have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup> Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup> But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup> Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called? <sup>8</sup> If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. <sup>9</sup> But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

**Day 11 Ephesians 2:4-5** <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.

**Day 12 Colossians 3:11** <sup>11</sup> Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

**Day 13 Deuteronomy 10:17** <sup>17</sup> For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe.

### **Week 3 (October 7-13): Pain that leads to Prejudice**

Anyone hurt by a member of a different ethnic or racial group is at risk for developing prejudice against all members of that group. Even slight offenses may powerfully reinforce old biases, as the conflict between Israel and Edom shows.

The king of Edom refused to open the King's Highway to Moses and his people, a hostile act that likely grew out of a prejudice with roots going back hundreds of years to a feud between two brothers: Jacob, the ancestor of Israel, and Esau, the ancestor of the Edomites. Jacob obtained Esau's birthright and cheated him out of their father's blessing. Esau swore he would get even.

Years later the brothers reconciled. But until this incident in Numbers 20, the Bible doesn't again mention Esau's descendants, the Edomites. Apparently those descendants never forgot the wrongs that Jacob had committed against their ancestors. As the Israelites struggled to traverse the desert, the king of Edom perhaps saw an opportunity for payback.

Refusing Moses' request made life difficult for the Hebrews. Had Edom let Israel pass, the Israelites may have escaped the fiery serpents. Worse yet, the Edomites' action perpetuated hostility between the two ethnic groups. Even though God commanded His people not to "abhor" an Edomite, the Israelites did not stop nursing their hurt feelings. Later, Saul harassed the Edomites. David slaughtered thousands of Edomites and turned their land into a military possession. David's general Joab then carried out a campaign of genocide against them.

The cycle of hate continued for centuries. Even baby Jesus felt its impact: King Herod, who ordered the slaughter of infants at Bethlehem, was descended from the Edomites.

As Christ's followers we are called to break the cycle of prejudice. If we are offended or attacked by someone of another ethnicity, we gain nothing by amplifying our pain into general mistrust and hatred of an entire group of people. Rather than furthering stereotypes, we can reach out and seek better understanding.

What can you do to guard against prejudice and keep it from compromising our integrity as Christ followers? As you are led, pray for racial and political reconciliation.

**Day 14 Luke 9:51-56** <sup>51</sup> When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. <sup>53</sup> But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup> And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" <sup>55</sup> But he turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup> And they went on to another village.

**Day 15 Joshua 5:13-15** <sup>13</sup> When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?" <sup>14</sup> And he said, "No; but I am the commander of the army of the LORD. Now I have come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?" <sup>15</sup> And the commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

**Day 16 Matthew 22:37-40** <sup>37</sup> And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

**Day 17 1 John 4:20** <sup>20</sup> If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

**Day 18 Isaiah 30:18** <sup>18</sup> Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.

**Day 19 Psalm 37:27-29** <sup>27</sup> Turn away from evil and do good; so shall you dwell forever. <sup>28</sup> For the LORD loves justice; he will not forsake his saints. They are preserved forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off. <sup>29</sup> The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell upon it forever.

**Day 20 Luke 6:37-38** <sup>37</sup> "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

#### **Week 4 (October 14-20): An Extremist Transformed**

Paul sets up his message to the Galatians by recounting his dramatic meeting with Christ on the road to Damascus and his subsequent conversion. In those long hours he must have been under deep emotional strain. He learned that the reports that Jesus had risen were true. He realized he had dedicated his life to killing the Messiah's followers. It was a life-altering experience for one "advanced in Judaism" and "exceedingly zealous for the traditions" of his fathers.

That may be why God struck Paul with blindness for three days. He had a lot to sort out after meeting the risen Lord. He had to reverse the entire theological basis of his life. Yet God intended to change more than Paul's theology. He was determined to transform his extremist view of the world. At the heart of Paul's intense hatred of the Christian movement might have been a belief that it would destroy Judaism by mixing it with foreign, Gentile elements.

Imagine Paul's shock when Ananias informed him that God had chosen him to take the message of Christ to none other than the Gentiles. Such a task would have been unthinkable. Jews like Paul, who were wholly committed to living by all the laws and traditions of Judaism, had nothing to do with Gentiles. It took years for Paul to reevaluate his perspective and align it with God's. Paul's dramatic transformation challenges us to examine the prejudices that keep us from living out God's love for the world.

When you find racial and cultural biases where you live, work, or worship, do you challenge that thinking?—or keep silent?—or worse, go along with hatred or even promote it? Can God use you to take His name to people whom you consider outsiders? As you are led, pray for racial and political reconciliation.

**Day 21 John 8:31-32** <sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

**Day 22 Acts 9:1-30** But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. <sup>4</sup> And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" <sup>5</sup> And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup> But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." <sup>7</sup> The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. <sup>8</sup> Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." <sup>11</sup> And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, <sup>12</sup> and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." <sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. <sup>16</sup> For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." <sup>17</sup> So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; <sup>19</sup> and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. <sup>20</sup> And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." <sup>21</sup> And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" <sup>22</sup> But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ...

<sup>26</sup> And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. <sup>27</sup> But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. <sup>28</sup> So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. <sup>29</sup> And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him. <sup>30</sup> And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

**Day 23 Romans 12:1-2** I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**Day 24 Psalm 51:10-12** <sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. <sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

**Day 25 2 Corinthians 5:17** <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

**Day 26 Acts 1:8** <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

**Day 27 James 1:22-25** <sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. <sup>25</sup> But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

## **Week 5 (October 21-27): Restoring Our Stories**

We need to recognize what we are meant to be in our ethnic stories and identities so that we can ask Jesus to restore us. It's not only about being racially aware and sensitive so that we can be cross-culturally savvy navigators of multiethnic groups. It's also about Jesus redeeming and restoring our ethnic identities. This makes for a compelling narrative that causes non-Christians to ask us about our faith as they wonder, How could that kind of hope and healing be available to me?

When Jesus interacts with the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4, she responds with astonished cynicism: "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (John 4:9). Jesus' attempts at conversation are parried by the woman's multiple pointed questions about their people's historic ethnic tensions. But by choosing to speak with her, Jesus the Messiah is embodying what Israel was meant to be: the priesthood nation and light to the Gentiles.

Jesus is redeeming what it means to be an Israelite Jew. And as the Samaritan woman experiences Jesus redeeming his people's ethnicity, she starts to desire such living water. Jesus is transforming the disciples' understanding of what it meant to be Jewish and the Samaritan woman's understanding of what it meant to be Samaritan. Ethnicity no longer serves as the confines of mission. It becomes the vehicle, the sacred vessel in which God's story comes to light.

Our ethnic stories are rarely formed in isolation. They often involve encounters and altercations with those around us. It's knowing our ethnic stories and the ethnic identity narratives of those around us that helps us realize the complexity of values, scars, trigger points, and words to avoid. It helps us know more how to sensitively share the gospel and boldly invite even those that were considered ethnic enemies or strangers to become believers.

Knowing and owning our ethnic narratives helps us understand the real issues of injustice, racial tension, and disunity that exist in the world. Ethnicity awareness helps us ask the question of how to prophetically engage in pursuing justice, racial reconciliation, and caring for the poor while we give the reason for our hope: Jesus, the great reconciler of a multiethnic people.

What assumptions and idolatries can you lay down to allow Christ to bring healing to you? As you are led, pray for racial and political reconciliation.

**Day 28 Psalm 139:1-16** O LORD, you have searched me and known me! <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. <sup>3</sup> You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. <sup>4</sup> Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. <sup>5</sup> You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. <sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. <sup>7</sup> Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? <sup>8</sup> If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! <sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, <sup>10</sup> even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. <sup>11</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," <sup>12</sup> even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you. <sup>13</sup> For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. <sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

**Day 29 Hosea 6:1** "Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.

**Day 30 John 3:16** <sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

**Day 31 Hebrews 12:14** <sup>14</sup> Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

**Day 32 Matthew 5:23-24** <sup>23</sup> So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

**Day 33 Romans 3:23** <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

**Day 34 Galatians 2:20** <sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.



## **Week 6 (October 28-Nov2): Talk Is Cheap**

All houses are built upon foundations that support or hold the weight of everything that is built upon them. Scripture says that righteousness and justice are the foundation of God's throne. This is where I get my definition of biblical Justice (the equitable and impartial application of the rule of God's moral law in society).

Righteousness is God's standard for humanity which He has laid out in Scripture. Justice is a term used for "what is right" or "as it should be." When you put those two together, biblical justice becomes an action of applying God's moral standards toward each other. In other words, we shouldn't just talk about justice, we are to exercise it. This is why Scripture clearly commands us "to do justice."

Biblical justice is rooted in seeking the welfare of those who are unable to fend for themselves. Why? Because these are the kinds of people who frequently get abused and treated unjustly. Scripture tells us to show care and concern for the poor, widows, orphans and foreigners. It also applies to groups of people who get targeted by systematic oppression based on race. Simply put, we are to defend and seek the welfare of those who are most vulnerable to suffer from injustice. The Bible tells us to "do good to everyone," so justice extends to anybody who is being treated unfairly. So when we see situations that aren't right, meaning they go against God's moral standards, it is our duty as believers to take action. We can't just talk about justice; we must do justice. That's why Micah 6:8 says, "Do justice." It does not talk about how we should feel or not feel toward justice. It says we are to do it.

What are some practical ways you can "do justice" in your life? As you are led, pray for racial and political reconciliation.

**Day 35 Acts 2:1-11** When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. <sup>5</sup> Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. <sup>7</sup> And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, <sup>11</sup> both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians-- we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

**Day 36 Revelation 7:9-10** <sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup> and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

**Day 37 James 2:14-17** <sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? <sup>17</sup> So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

**Day 38 Hebrews 13:16** <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

**Day 39 Galatians 6:9** <sup>9</sup> And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

**Day 40 Hebrews 6:10** <sup>10</sup> For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.