

## EASTER Season Devotional Journey

.....A journey to seek deeper understanding of a resurrected life



Justice is often brought up by passionate teachers, pastors, and leaders inviting us into new action, but what about the actions you and I take every day? Biblical justice isn't an action once a year; it's about infusing what we already do with Kingdom values; it's a lifestyle. This sermon series is designed to help us live justly in six key areas of life: advocacy, prayer, consumption, generosity, relationships and creation care. Join us to seek justice that permeates our everyday life choices - pushing us not just to seek justice but to live justly.

### Worship & Prayer Room

*Let us journey together to seek God's presence*

2nd Tuesday | MONTHLY  
SOC Main Hall  
Free to come between 7-9pm

Next Session | 14 MAY 2019

### Personal Devotional Journey

*In your own quiet room*

This devotional journal takes you on a journey through worship & prayer where you can come into God's presence; build a relationship with Jesus; and be ministered in the Holy Spirit.....

## **As You Begin.....**

**What does worship mean to me? Is my worship God centred and pleasing to Him? Have I personally encountered with God during worship? Does God really listen and answer my prayers?**

**As we considered these questions, let us consider what Jesus said in Luke 10...‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind.’**

**In fact He is calling us to: ‘COME, worship me with your whole life, and you will experience transformation in your soul, your heart, your mind and your strength....’**

**This is Whole Life Worship....**

**We encounter with God in the journey of our life. Whether we gather in our church, in our home or work place, in our small groups, or in our personal quiet time, we seek the presence of our Father God, we build a relationship with Jesus and ready to be ministered by the Holy Spirit. In fact each of our ‘Daily Walk’ with God forms the basis in shaping our corporate worship culture.**

**Hence the church would like to invite you to walk this worship & prayer journey together. This devotional journal takes you on a path which helps you focus on God. Feel free to use this in your personal quiet time, or you can come along to the ‘Corporate Worship Space’, which takes place in SOC on 2nd Tuesday every month , and journey with other brothers & sisters in our church.**

**The Corporate Worship Spaces are not events to attend - hence feel free to come and leave anytime between the set time. When you come inside you are free to pray, meditate, reflect at your own pace, share your thoughts with others, and minister to each other with prayers.**

**The only agenda is to encounter with God.....**

# Journal

Posture of your soul

come into Your presence  
what am I willing to surrender? \_\_\_\_\_

wait & listen, what is God saying to me?

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\_\_\_\_\_

what is the status of my heart? \_\_\_\_\_

← Status of your heart

what kind of things are you focusing on right now? \_\_\_\_\_

do you believe that God loves you? \_\_\_\_\_

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Thinking in your mind

what does the Bible say

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

encouragement through His words \_\_\_\_\_

Strength to serve

calls to action \_\_\_\_\_

prayers \_\_\_\_\_

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# Journey Guide

## Reflections

1. Are there things you pray for daily?
2. Do you pray about “big” issues like hunger, slavery, extreme poverty? What do those prayers look like?
3. How does Nehemiah’s prayer life empower him to have confidence in pursuing justice for God’s people? How can we pray in the same way for our context?
4. Share a time when your prayers were clearly answered.
5. What is God saying to you, and what are you going to do about it?

## Prayer

*Lord, give me the dedication of Nehemiah to see justice done even in the face of adversity. Draw me close to you, and your heart, and your concerns. Give me sensitive ears and eyes, to hear and see injustice, and the courage to respond.*

When we spend time with God alone in worship and prayer, He welcomes us into a personal friendship that grows deeper over time. In this friendship we not only sense His presence and speak to Him as we journey through our daily lives, but also learn to hear His voice.

Therefore seek His presence in your life every day. If your walk with Him is close, expect Him to draw you closer. Our God is always ready to meet us where we are and bring us further with Him. You will experience life in all of its fullness.

The following is a simple guide in your journey to explore and experience our God in the different spaces of our whole being – your SOUL, your HEART, your MIND, your STRENGTH

Try this journal format to record your journey

Posture of your soul

surrender your everything  
come into His  
presence to adore & praise Him

wait - listen - meditate

Status of your heart

open your heart  
allow Him to search inside out  
confess - forgive - heal

Thinking in your mind

consider your life situations at present  
hold tight to His words & truth  
read - reflect - ask

Strength to serve

commit your life to serve Him  
move with the Holy Spirit  
response - minister - supplicate

**WORSHIP –  
engage in God’s  
presence**

**REFLECT –  
engage with His Word**

**PRAYER -  
engage in  
conversation with  
God**



**Week 1 | Sun. 12 May – Sat. 18 May**  
**Scripture Reading : Nehemiah 5**

1 Now the men and their wives raised a great outcry against their fellow Jews. 2 Some were saying, “We and our sons and daughters are numerous; in order for us to eat and stay alive, we must get grain.”

3 Others were saying, “We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards and our homes to get grain during the famine.”

4 Still others were saying, “We have had to borrow money to pay the king’s tax on our fields and vineyards. 5 Although we are of the same flesh and blood as our fellow Jews and though our children are as good as theirs, yet we have to subject our sons and daughters to slavery. Some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but we are powerless, because our fields and our vineyards belong to others.”

6 When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry. 7 I pondered them in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials. I told them, “You are charging your own people interest!” So I called together a large meeting to deal with them 8 and said: “As far as possible, we have bought back our fellow Jews who were sold to the Gentiles. Now you are selling your own people, only for them to be sold back to us!” They kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say.

9 So I continued, “What you are doing is not right. Shouldn’t you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies? 10 I and my brothers and my men are also lending the people money and grain. But let us stop charging interest! 11 Give back to them immediately their fields, vineyards, olive groves and houses, and also the interest you are charging them—one percent of the money, grain, new wine and olive oil.”

12 “We will give it back,” they said. “And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say.”

Then I summoned the priests and made the nobles and officials take an oath to do what they had promised. 13 I also shook out the folds of my robe and said, “In this way may God shake out of their house and possessions anyone who does not keep this promise. So may such a person be shaken out and emptied!”

At this the whole assembly said, “Amen,” and praised the Lord. And the people did as they had promised.

14 Moreover, from the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, until his thirty-second year—twelve years—neither I nor my brothers ate the food allotted to the governor. 15 But the earlier governors—those preceding me—placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels[a] of silver from them in addition to food and wine. Their assistants also lorded it over the people. But out of reverence for God I did not act like that. 16 Instead, I devoted myself to the work on this wall. All my men were assembled there for the work; we[b] did not acquire any land.

17 Furthermore, a hundred and fifty Jews and officials ate at my table, as well as those who came to us from the surrounding nations. 18 Each day one ox, six choice sheep and some poultry were prepared for me, and every ten days an abundant supply of wine of all kinds. In spite of all this, I never demanded the food allotted to the governor, because the demands were heavy on these people.

19 Remember me with favor, my God, for all I have done for these people.

## WHAT IS BIBLICAL JUSTICE: A THEOLOGY OF JUSTICE

**“If you are trying to live a life in accordance with the Bible, the concept and call to justice are inescapable.”- Tim Keller**

**“Part of living justly is recognising that the decisions we make affect not only the people around us but communities and environments around the world. We must live our lives and make choices with that in mind.”- Kimberly Hunt**

**Week 1 | Sun.21 Apr. – Sat. 27 Apr.**  
**Scripture Reading : Isaiah 61**

- 1 The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,
- 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God to comfort all who mourn,
- 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.
- 4 They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.
- 5 Strangers will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards.
- 6 And you will be called priests of the Lord, you will be named ministers of our God. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast.
- 7 Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance. And so you will inherit a double portion in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours.
- 8 "For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them.
- 9 Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed."
- 10 I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- 11 For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

**Justice and  
Prayer:  
Changing the  
World Through  
Prayer**

**"Prayer makes your heart bigger, until it is capable of containing the gift of God himself. Prayer begets faith, faith begets love, and love begets service on behalf of the poor."- Mother Teresa**

**"We are to change the world through prayer." - Richard J. Foster**





# Reflections

1. What is God's definition of justice?
2. Why do you think Jesus quoted this passage in his first sermon (Luke 4:18)?
3. In the absence of the year of Jubilee, how do we ensure a "reset" to undo the structural and personal sin that perpetuates oppression?
4. What is God saying to you, and what are you going to do about it?

# Prayer

*Lord, you know my heart. If I have claimed to know you, but have resisted seeking justice, forgive me. If I have passionately sought justice, but have been detached from you, draw me near to you. Help me recognise your Spirit in me and respond to your call to seek justice.*

# Journal

Posture of your soul

come into Your presence  
 what am I willing to surrender? \_\_\_\_\_

wait & listen, what is God saying to me?

what is the status of my heart? \_\_\_\_\_ ← Status of your heart

what kind of things are you focusing on right now? \_\_\_\_\_

do you believe that God loves you? \_\_\_\_\_

Thinking in your mind

what does the Bible say

encouragement through His words \_\_\_\_\_

Strength to serve

calls to action \_\_\_\_\_

prayers \_\_\_\_\_

## Reflections

1. If Moses was called to help those in slavery today, what do you think the church would think of his strategy?
2. Can you think of an example of well intentioned Christians trying to combat injustice through charity alone? Did it free people?
3. Consider the issue of hunger. In what ways can we respond to hunger, not just through providing food, but through loosening the chains of injustice?
4. What is God saying to you, and what are you going to do about it?

## Prayer

*Lord, give me eyes to see the structures and systems that perpetuate injustice. Help me also to see the immediate needs of the oppressed, and may I never seek justice at the expense of being charitable. Give me a courageous voice to hold my leaders accountable to how their decisions affect the vulnerable.*

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**Week 1 | Sun. 5 May – Sat. 11 May**  
**Scripture Reading : Exodus 3**

1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. 3 So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

4 When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.”

5 “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” 6 Then he said, “I am the God of your father,[a] the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

7 The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. 9 And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. 10 So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

11 But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

12 And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you[b] will worship God on this mountain.”

13 Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

14 God said to Moses, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’”

15 God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord,[d] the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’

“This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.

16 “Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt. 17 And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—a land flowing with milk and honey.’

18 “The elders of Israel will listen to you. Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, ‘The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God.’ 19 But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. 20 So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go.

21 “And I will make the Egyptians favorably disposed toward this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed. 22 Every woman is to ask her neighbor and any woman living in her house for articles of silver and gold and for clothing, which you will put on your sons and daughters. And so you will plunder the Egyptians.”

## **Integral Mission: Our Mission in the World**

**“If we ignore the world, we betray the word of God which sends us out to serve the world. If we ignore the word of God, we have nothing to bring to the world.”- From the Micah Declaration on Integral Mission**

**“Integral mission is the church living out its faith in Jesus in every aspect of life. It’s recognising that people are more than their hunger or despair.**

**They’re complex and precious, made in God’s image. And they’re loved. Integral mission is answering God’s call to love one another, completely.”-**

**Tearfund statement on Integral Mission**

**“The risen Jesus expects that his disciple- community, which is preaching the Good News among the nations, is also striving at Christian unity, is sharing its resources with the poor and needy, is engaged in costly initiatives of peacemaking, and hungering and thirsting after God’s justice.”-**

**Vinoth Ramachandra**

**Week 2 | Sun.28 Apr. – Sat. 4 May**  
**Scripture Reading : Matthew 22:34-40; 28:16-20**

**Matthew 22:34-40**

**The Greatest Commandment**

34 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. 35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 36 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

37 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

**Matthew 28:16-20**

**The Great Commission**

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

**Justice:  
Combining  
Charity and  
Advocacy**

**“We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice, we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself.” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

**“Charity is no substitute for justice withheld.” - St. Augustine**



## Reflections

1. According to integral mission, any work of the church to usher in the kingdom of God is mission. Do you agree with this? What activities become “missions” that have not typically been identified as such?
2. Can we full the great commission without seeking justice? Why or why not?
3. Has preaching/teaching on the great commission ever compelled you to pursue justice?
4. What is God saying to you, and what are you going to do about it?

## Prayer

*Lord, make me an instrument of your kingdom. Help me to be missional even when it is uncomfortable. Help me to challenge the economic, political and social systems of our world that are in need of redemption. Help me to bravely proclaim the gospel to my neighbours, near and far, and may many come to know and follow you.*

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