

SESSION 17
GOD IS JUST (A)
Lesson Plan



RECOMMENDED READING

Chapter 18 “God Is Just” and Chapter 28
 “Cultivating a Healthy Fear of God”

INTRODUCTION (5 MINUTES)

God is at work in our lives every day. Psalm 105:5 states, “Remember the wonders He has done, His miracles, and the judgments He pronounced” (NIV). Even when life seems confusing and chaotic, our magnificent God is in control. His integrity is our comfort in the midst of confusion. He is our righteous Judge whose justice is perfect.

Our God is not only holy, truthful, and righteous—He is also just. Think of a recent court trial where you believe the outcome was unjust. Perhaps someone innocent was convicted of a crime. Or maybe someone who was guilty walked away free and unpunished.

- ❓ What was the cause of the injustice?
- ❓ Why do we encounter this type of injustice in our society?

Justice means knowing all the facts and handing out a fair judgment. Only God with His unlimited attributes and perfect nature can be completely just. Let’s ask the Holy Spirit to teach us about this attribute of God.

Lead the group in prayer.

**VIDEO TEACHING SEGMENT:
 GOD IS JUST (18 MINUTES)**

The cue graphic on the videotape is “Lesson 9” (the video segments are divided by attributes).

This session’s Video Outline is found on page 48 in the Study Guide. This is a jam-packed session! Listen carefully as Dr. Bright teaches us about the justice of God.

GROUP DISCUSSION (21 MINUTES)

- ❓ Was there anything in this video segment that disturbed you? Comforted you? Encouraged you?
- ❓ How would you describe a “reverential awe of God”?
- ❓ What has your past experience been with the justice of God?
- ❓ Why is it difficult for us to trust God’s justice?
- ❓ In what ways has your thinking changed as a result of our study on God’s justice?

Included in your Study Guide this week, on page 49, is a condensed version of Chapter 28 from the book *GOD: Discover His Character*. “Cultivating a Healthy Fear of God” will truly inspire and challenge you to think about your relationship with our just God. Take the time before our next session to read it and begin to apply the biblical principles to your life.

CLOSING PRAYER (1 MINUTE)

Lead the group in a closing prayer.

SESSION 17
GOD IS JUST (A)
Video Outline



1. **God is absolutely just in all His judgments.**
 (Deuteronomy 32:4)

2. **God is a perfect Judge.**

3. **God is just; He is angry at sin.**
 (Psalm 7:11; Psalm 90:8,9,11)

4. **Sooner or later, all sin will be punished.**
 (Ecclesiastes 12:14; Jeremiah 12:1)
 - God delays His judgment because He is patiently providing an opportunity for repentance. (Psalm 7:12; Psalm 32:6)
 - Sometimes we do not even recognize God's judgment because it occurs in a way that we did not expect. (Galatians 6:7,8)
 - God's acts of vengeance are another form of judgment. (Deuteronomy 32:35)
 - The final judgment event will occur at the end of time. (Romans 2:5–8)

5. **God rewards righteousness and faithfulness.**
 (Psalm 62:12; Matthew 6:6; 2 Corinthians 5:10)
 - Jesus will judge the words we have spoken. (Matthew 12:35,36)
 - Jesus will judge the deeds we have done. (1 Corinthians 3:12–15)
 - Jesus will judge our motives. (Colossians 3:23,24)
 - Jesus will judge our faithfulness. (Matthew 25:21; Galatians 6:9)

*Because God is just,
 He will always treat me fairly.*

RECOMMENDED READING

GOD: Discover His Character, Chapter 18 “God Is Just”

SESSION 18
GOD IS JUST (B)
Lesson Plan



RECOMMENDED READING

Chapter 19 “God’s Justice Works for Our Good”

REVIEW (5 MINUTES)

Lead the group in prayer.

Today we’re going to continue our study of God’s justice.

- ❓ In what ways do you see our discussions building upon one another?
- ❓ Why do you think it’s important for us to have a clear understanding of this attribute of God—that He is just?
- ❓ Is a healthy fear of God *necessary* in order to understand His nature?

BIBLE STUDY (20 MINUTES)

As we turn to the Bible we’re going to find that Scripture is very clear about God’s justice. Turn to page 52 in your Study Guide as we study several passages related to the character quality of God.

VIDEO ILLUSTRATION SEGMENT: GOD’S JUDGMENT OF AMERICA (11 MINUTES)

LIFE APPLICATION (8 MINUTES)

- ❓ What thoughts or feelings are you experiencing because of what Dr. Bright shared with us in this session?
- ❓ Respond to Dr. Bright’s statement, “As Christians we must seriously consider whether we ourselves are to blame for the condition of our country. . . . If our country is lost, it is only because we as Christians have not obeyed our Lord’s command to be salt and light to the people around us.”

The fact that our Almighty God is holy, truthful, righteous, and just should inspire and humble us. These attributes should move us to obedience and worship, for He is a God of perfect integrity. His character is pure. As a result of what we have learned in these lessons, we should praise our mighty Judge in awe and reverence, and live to bring Him glory.

Let’s turn to the Life Application steps on page 54 and read together the memorization verses found in the section “Write It on Your Heart.”

CLOSING PRAYER (1 MINUTE)

Lead the group in a closing prayer.

SESSION 18

GOD IS JUST (B)

Bible Study



1. God withholds judgment of the wicked for the sake of the righteous.

Read Genesis 18:23–33.

- a. What title did Abraham give to God? (v. 25)
- b. What was Abraham's concern regarding God's judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah?
- c. In what ways have you experienced God's longsuffering in your life?

2. God does not postpone judgment indefinitely.

Read Genesis 19:1–16.

- a. What sins had the people of Sodom and Gomorrah committed to earn their destruction?
- b. Why did God spare Lot and his family? What does this reveal about His character?
- c. What does the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah reveal about God's justice?
- d. How have you seen the justice of God meted out in your life?

3. God always judges fairly, without favoritism.

Read James 2:1–4.

- a. What attitude and behavior is James denouncing in this passage?
- b. How is this behavior unjust?
- c. What does this passage reveal about God's character?
- d. Have you ever erred in this way, or been on the receiving end of this behavior? How did it feel?

SESSION 18
GOD IS JUST (B)
Life Application



WRITE IT ON YOUR HEART

Memorize the following statement and verses. As you encounter situations during this week where you need to be reminded of God's justice, claim these promises by faith.

- Because God is just, He will always treat me fairly.
- Jeremiah 17:10 (NIV)—“I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve.”
- Ecclesiastes 12:14 (NIV)—“God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.”

EXALT YOUR GOD

Praise our just God with the words of Moses:

Listen, O heavens, and I will speak! Hear, O earth, the words that I say! My teaching will fall on you like rain; my speech will settle like dew. My words will fall like rain on tender grass, like gentle showers on young plants. I will proclaim the name of the LORD; how glorious is our God! He is the Rock; His work is perfect. Everything He does is just and fair. He is a faithful God who does no wrong; how just and upright He is! (Deuteronomy 32:1–4).

REFLECT HIS IMAGE

The Lord spoke through Isaiah, saying, “I, the LORD, love justice” (Isaiah 61:8). God wants His children to mirror His nature through the power of His Holy Spirit. Search your heart by answering the following questions:

- Does seeing injustice make me angry or sad?
- In what ways do I show that I love justice?
- Are my everyday actions consistent with my beliefs?
- Could those around me say that everything I do is just and fair?

Life Application (continued)

COUNT ON GOD

How have you been wronged at various times in your life? What was the outcome?

Childhood

High school

College

Professionally

By your spouse

By a neighbor

In your church

Other

The prophet Jeremiah stated, “The LORD is a God of retribution; He will repay in full” (Jeremiah 51:56, NIV). Trust our perfect God of justice to judge the person who wronged you. Tell Him about your anger and frustration and wait for Him to deal with the one who wronged you.

OBEY GOD

The Word of God states in Galatians 6:7, “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows” (NIV).

In what ways are you sowing seeds of destruction?

How are you sowing seeds of mercy, justice, and goodness?

SHARE HIS MAJESTY

Think of someone who has been wronged and give that person the comforting news that God is the perfect Judge. Lovingly warn someone who has not acted justly that God judges those who do wrong.

RECOMMENDED READING

GOD: Discover His Character, Chapter 19 “God’s Justice Works for Our Good”

If you would like to download the entire GOD: Discover His Character Bible Study (which covers all the attributes) for free. You'll find it by visiting our Resources section:

<http://DiscoverGod.com/resources>

