



FAITH IN ACTION: MICAH 6:8
Seek justice · Love mercy · Walk humbly

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Summer Social Justice Study 2026

*6-Week Journey Toward Justice,
Compassion & Community*
for adults, teens, and kids

Adult Summer Social Justice Study

Week 1: Seeing Clearly: Naming What Is

Activity: Watch *The Very Good Gospel* snippet of Lisa Sharon Harper [here](#) (Optional: read [*The Very Good Gospel*](#) by Lisa Sharon Harper)

Theme: God's vision of shalom

Thoughts:

- What does “very good” look like in our community?
- Where do we see brokenness?
- How does naming injustice become hope?

Practice: Take a 20-minute “justice walk” and notice signs of harm and signs of flourishing.

Week 2: Stories That Change Us

Activity: Watch [presentation of *Tattoos on the Heart* Gregory Boyle here](#)

Theme: Compassion as a transformative force

Thoughts:

- What, if anything, in this video stuck out to you?
- How compassion disrupts cycles of harm?
- Where God is already at work among the overlooked?

Practice: Write a note of encouragement to someone carrying something heavy.

Week 3: Race, Repair & Real Community

Listen: [Be the Bridge podcast episode: *What is DEI?*](#) by Latasha Morrison ([Link](#) to podcast homepage to access pod via your preferred listening platform.)

Theme: Truth-telling and repair

Thoughts:

- What did you think DEI was before listening to this episode? What do you know it as after listening to the episode?
- Humility without shame
- What bridge-building looks like in daily life

Practice: Learn one concrete need of a local racial justice or community-building organization

Week 4: Land, Creation & Indigenous Wisdom

Reading: *Braiding Sweetgrass* Robin Wall Kimmerer (selected essays: Skywoman Falling, The Gift of Strawberries, Allegiance to Gratitude, Learning the Grammar of Animacy, The Honorable Harvest)

Theme: Reciprocity and gratitude

Thoughts:

- How gratitude reshapes our relationship to creation
- What reciprocity looks like in a faith community
- How to honor Indigenous wisdom with integrity

Practice: Name three gifts creation gave you this week.

Week 5: Economic Justice & Neighbor Love

Reading: *Evicted* Matthew Desmond (excerpt on author website)

Theme: Housing, poverty, and moral responsibility

Thoughts:

- How housing injustice shows up locally
- What surprised or unsettled you
- What neighbor love looks like when systems harm

Practice: Explore one local housing justice or eviction-prevention program.

Week 6: Becoming Repairers of the Breach

Read: [A summary of Jemar Tisby's ARC model](#)

Theme: Awareness • Relationships • Commitment

Thoughts:

- Which part of the ARC model feels natural?
- Which part stretches you?

Practice: Create a personal “Justice Plan”: one awareness goal, one relationship goal, one commitment for the next 3 months.

Kids (ages 8-12) Summer Social Justice Track *Parallel to the 6-Week Adult Study*

Week 1: Seeing Goodness

- **Theme:** God made the world “very good.”
- **Read:** [A picture book about community or kindness](#)

Talk About:

- Where do you see goodness in your neighborhood
- Where do you see things that need fixing

Activity: “Goodness Hunt”: draw or photograph 3 things that show kindness or care in your community.

Week 2: Stories That Change Us

- **Theme:** Everyone's story matters.
- **Read:** A short story or chapter about someone helping others

Talk About:

- What made the character brave or kind
- How stories help us understand people

Activity: Make a "Kindness Comic": a 4-panel comic showing someone choosing compassion.

Week 3: Fairness & Friendship

- **Theme:** Fairness helps everyone belong.
- **Read:** A kid-friendly book about fairness or inclusion

Talk About:

- What does fairness feel like
- How can we help someone feel included

Activity: "Bridge Builders": build a literal bridge out of blocks or paper and write one way you can build friendship on each piece.

Week 4: Caring for the Earth

- **Theme:** We take care of creation because creation takes care of us.
- **Read:** A nature-themed picture book or short essay.

Talk About:

- What gifts does the earth give us
- How can we give back

Activity: Gratitude Scavenger Hunt: find 5 things outside you're thankful for.

Week 5: Home & Helping Neighbors

- **Theme:** Everyone deserves a safe place to live.
- **Read:** A story about neighbors helping neighbors:
 - How Minnesotans are helping their neighbors
 - Neighbors helping neighbors

Talk About:

- What makes a home feel safe
- How can we help people who need support

Activity: Make “Welcome Home” cards for a local housing or family-support organization.

Week 6: Small Actions, Big Change

- **Theme:** Kids can make a difference.
- **Read:** A short biography of a kid activist or helper:
 - Malala Yousafzai
 - Cavanaugh Bell
 - Vibha Venkatesha
 - 12 kids who are changing their communities and our world

Talk About:

- What small action made a big difference
- What small action can you take

Activity: Create a “Summer Justice Goal” card, one small thing you'll do to help others.

Teen Summer Social Justice Track

Parallel to the 6-Week Adult Study

Week 1: Seeing the Whole Picture

- **Theme:** Naming what's broken is part of healing.
- **Read:** [The Sentencing Project](#); [The Marshall Project](#)

Thoughts:

- What “very good” looks like in our world
- Where you (as a teenager) see injustice most clearly

Practice: 20-minute neighborhood observation walk; write 5 things you notice about equity, access, or community care.

Week 2: Compassion as Strength

- **Theme:** Compassion disrupts harm.
- **Read:** [A youth-friendly excerpt from *Tattoos on the Heart*](#) or a similar story.

Thoughts:

- What compassion looks like in teen life
- How compassion challenges stereotypes

Practice: Send an anonymous encouragement note to someone at school or church.

Week 3: Race, Identity & Repair

- **Theme:** Real community requires truth.
- **Read:** [A short video on racial equity](#)

Thoughts:

- What repair looks like among peers
- How to practice humility and curiosity

Practice: Research one local racial justice group and share one thing they're working on.

Week 4: Land, Place & Responsibility

- **Theme:** We belong to the earth, and the earth belongs to God.
- **Read:** *A Gift of Strawberries* from *Braiding Sweetgrass* or [a summary](#)

Thoughts:

- How gratitude changes our relationship to the land
- What reciprocity looks like for teens

Practice: Spend 10 minutes outside naming what the land gives you; write a short reflection.

Week 5: Housing, Poverty & Neighbor Love

- **Theme:** Everyone deserves stability.
- **Read:** *The Pursuit of Education: A Story of Homelessness, Perseverance, and the Impact of Caring Educators* or other teen-friendly articles about housing insecurity.

Thoughts:

- What makes housing a justice issue?
- How you (as a teenager) can advocate or support

Practice: Learn about one local housing or family-support program; share one way they help.

Week 6: Your Justice Path

- **Theme:** Awareness → Relationships → Commitment.
- **Read:** [A summary of Jemar Tisby's ARC model](#)

Thoughts:

- Which part of ARC feels natural?
- Which part feels challenging?

Practice: Create a personal “Justice Plan”: one awareness goal, one relationship goal, one commitment for the next 3 months.