

# what if it's true?

REASONS TO BELIEVE

## WEEK 3 - JUSTICE OVERVIEW

From a very early age, people demonstrate a very finely tuned justice meter. We know when something isn't fair! As we grow older, however, one truth becomes abundantly clear: despite our sense of what justice looks like, the real world is a very *unjust* place. The rich exploit the poor. The powerful abuse the powerless. Hurt people hurt people. Deep down, we know this isn't the way things are meant to be. Something within us yearns for true justice. In John's gospel, we see the *injustice* of the world on display as Israel's religious leaders work with Pilate, Roman governor of Judea, to *pervert* justice to have Jesus crucified. It is in Christ's resurrection, however, that we see the seeds of a world made right being planted: The kingdom of God inaugurated, offering an entirely new vision of the justice that is possible in human society.

*Pilate went outside again and said to the people, "I am going to bring him out to you now, but understand clearly that I find him not guilty." Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said, "Look, here is the man!"*

**John 19:4-5**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your favorite "rags to riches" story? Why is it your favorite?
2. Define justice. Give some examples of ways that Jesus embodies true justice.
3. Where do we see evidence of God's heart for justice? (See [Isaiah 1:17](#) and other examples from scripture.)
4. What injustice does Jesus face? (See [John 1:10-11](#), [John 18:19-24](#), [28-31](#).)
5. How did Jesus prove that the unjust powers of the world are actually powerless?
6. How does it make you feel to know that your God went from riches to rags because of his love for you? (See [Philippians 2:6-8](#).)
7. How could our shared yearning for justice point directly to Jesus?
8. Read [John 20:21](#). If we are following Jesus, what is our role regarding justice?