



## Bible Reading Plan : 40 Days on Justice

### THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

The bible starts in the book of Genesis, defining the problem of evil in our world. Genesis sets the scene for the rest of the biblical story. It starts with God declaring that his creation was very good. However, after the fall, evil in the forms of unrighteousness and injustice spread throughout the world. The forms of unrighteousness and injustice spread throughout the world. The following readings highlight issues of righteousness and justice; God's response to unrighteousness and injustice, and the ways he expects us to respond are also demonstrated. Keep an eye out for examples of righteousness and justice; judgement and redemption.

Day 1

#### Consequences of the Fall

**Read > Genesis 3:1-24**

**Contemplate >** What is at the basis of the serpent's temptation of Eve? How does this relate to Eve's understanding of God? What sinful actions are shown in this passage? Are these sins issues of righteousness or justice? How does this passage show the effects of sin upon relationships; with God and with other people? What is God's response to the sins of Adam and Eve? What does this tell us about the importance of righteousness and justice of God?

Day 2

#### Murder of Abel

**Read > Genesis 4:1-26**

**Contemplate >** In verse 7 God warns Cain about his temptation, what does this tell us about (a) God's concern about sin and (b) his willingness to help us overcome it? What are the results of Cain murdering Abel? In verses 10-12 the cry of Abel's blood from the ground becomes a curse on the ground, and on agriculture; what does this say about the practical effects of unrighteousness and injustice? How does verse 25-26 work to redeem that which was lost through the death of Abel?

Day 3

#### The Flood

**Read > Genesis 6:1-8:22**

**Contemplate >** What specific righteousness/justice issues on the earth does the passage identify? What is God's response to the wickedness of humanity? How does God's response show the two themes of judgement and redemption? Why do you think that the whole earth was destroyed along with those who were unrighteous? What does this say about the connection between our choices and the effects on the broader creation? What does the redemption of two of each kind of animal tell us about God's concern for his creation? What can we learn from this passage about personal morality, social justice and environmental ethics?



Day 4

### Joseph Sold into Slavery

**Read > Genesis 37:1-36**

**Contemplate >** What acts of unrighteousness and injustice are shown in this passage; by Joseph, his father and his brothers? How does this passage show the interplay between different issues of injustice? Would Joseph's brothers have hated him if their father didn't love him more than the others? What underlies Joseph's aspirations to power over his brothers and parents? If Joseph's dreams were from God, why do you think that the immediate thing that happened to him was that instead of rising to power, that he was sold into slavery? How significant is the issue of power in justice issues today?

Day 5

### Joseph and Potiphar's Wife

**Read > Genesis 39:1-23**

**Contemplate >** What does this passage say was God's attitude towards Joseph? What was the effect on the house of Potiphar because of Joseph? What does this mean for us about the blessings attached to righteousness? What is the basis of Joseph's refusal to sleep with Potiphar's wife; loyalty to his master or to God? How do the actions of Potiphar's wife in framing Joseph show how some people use their power unjustly because they don't get their own way? Where is God in Joseph's imprisonment? What does this tell us about where God is when people are unjustly imprisoned? Is it possible to prosper under oppression?