



## **Micah 6:8 – “What Does the Lord Require?”**

**A Study Guide  
for  
Group or Individual Use  
and  
Companion  
to the  
“Do It Justice” Series**

**April 15, 22, and 29, 2007  
University Covenant Church**

**From the Faith, Compassion and Justice Team of UCC  
Written by Greg Bourne**

## Micah 6:8 - What Does the Lord Require?

*“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8*

This six-week study guide is intended to lead you and your small group through a discussion of scriptures which address our calling as Christians to care about matters of compassion and justice in the world around us. The study guide is designed around five lessons each week to be read and meditated upon prior to meeting in the small group. This will provide a foundation for the discussions to be conducted during your small group meeting.

*Please note when scriptures are cited as the basis for a lesson it is recommended you read the verses before and after for context.*

### Week 1: What Does the Lord Require of You?

This week, consider God’s expectations of those He has called to be part of His Kingdom, those who claim Jesus as Savior and Lord. Consider the criticism aimed at the Pharisees for being too self-absorbed and self-righteous, ignoring the very things that should have been most important. And keep in mind that the Pharisees were considered to be the people most genuinely focused on being Godly.

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#### DAY 1. THE TWO GREATEST COMMANDMENTS

Read Matthew 22:34-40. Consider the two “greatest” commandments as found in these verses.

- “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”
- “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

*Ponder and respond to the following:*

*What are some of the purposes behind Jesus instructing and admonishing us through the use of commandments?* \_\_\_\_\_

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*What does this say about expectations He has for His people?* \_\_\_\_\_

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**DAY 2. “WOE TO YOU, SCRIBES AND PHARISEES,...”**

Read Matthew 23:23-24. What can we learn from the admonitions to the Pharisees from Jesus?

- “...(you) have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness;...”

*Consider the following:*

*What do we have in common with the scribes and Pharisees?* \_\_\_\_\_

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*What can we learn from Jesus’ warnings to the Pharisees?* \_\_\_\_\_

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**DAY 3. KEEPING THE LORD’S COMMANDMENTS - IT’S ABOUT THE HEART**

Read Deut. 10:12-11:1 and I Cor 13:3, drawing on the following major themes.

- “...keep the Lord’s commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good.”
- “Circumcise then your heart,...”
- “And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.”

*Respond to the following questions:*

*How important is it for our heart to be in the right place?* \_\_\_\_\_

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*What are some of the keys to following God’s commandments without becoming legalistic in following Jesus?* \_\_\_\_\_

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**DAY 4. "...FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD."**

Read James 1:22-24, 2:14-26 and Ephesians 2:8-10, focusing on the following themes from these three passages.

- “But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.”
- “What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works?”
- “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,...”

*Respond to the following questions:*

*Why is it important to respond to God’s grace by reflecting that same grace to others?*

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*How does the passage from Ephesians help us keep the correct balance between faith and works?* \_\_\_\_\_

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**DAY 5. "...AND WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU..."**

Read Micah 6:6-8. Note the three major components of this passage that describe what is “good” in the sight of the Lord.

- “Do justice”
- “Love kindness”
- “Walk humbly with your God”

*Respond to the following question:*

*What do we learn from the verbs in these verses?* \_\_\_\_\_

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*Why is humility linked to justice and kindness?* \_\_\_\_\_

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**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:**

Briefly discuss the highlights from each day's lesson. What major "takeaway" or new insight did you gain from these lessons?

Some speak of a split within Christendom between those who focus on individual relationships with God and those who focus on social justice. Discuss the fallacy of this divide and the importance of this being a "both-and" rather than an "either-or" issue.

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## Week 2: What Does it Mean to Love Kindness?

The primary theme this week is God’s admonition to His people, through Micah, that they recognize the importance of kindness, or compassion, as part of their calling. For many it seems enough simply to grow in their personal relationship with God, yet the encouragement to commit acts of kindness and compassion suggests an “outward” focus to our faith.

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### DAY 1. KINDNESS AND COMPASSION

The scriptures give us numerous examples of what constitute acts of kindness and compassion. These include Deut. 10:17-19, Matt 25:31-46, Col 3:12-13 and James 1:27. Read these and reflect on what they say about compassion and kindness.

*Consider the following:*

*What are the primary characteristics of compassion drawn from these verses?* \_\_\_\_\_  
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*What do these verses suggest about how important it is to develop a heart for, and actually undertake, acts of compassion?* \_\_\_\_\_  
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### DAY 2. REVIEW THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

Read below the primary components of the mission statement for the Evangelical Covenant Church.

- To love God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind (Deut 6:5; Matt 22:37)
- To love our neighbor as ourselves (Matt 22:39)
- To go into all the world and make disciples (Matt 28:19)

*Respond to the following: Who is your neighbor?*  
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*What does it mean to love your neighbor?* \_\_\_\_\_  
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**DAY 3. REVIEW THE MISSION STATEMENT OF UCC**

Read the mission statement of our own congregation.

We are a community of ordinary people, experiencing the extraordinary life changing love of Jesus Christ. Revived by faith, renewed by hope and restored by love, it is our purpose to:

- Bring people to Jesus and membership in His family
- Love and nurture each other to Christ-like maturity
- Equip each individual for service in our church, our community and the world.

Also read Hebrews 13:20-21.

*Questions to consider:*

*Why is our church concerned with equipping each individual for service? \_\_\_\_\_*  
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*How does our mission statement and that of our denomination relate to the call to “love kindness?” \_\_\_\_\_*  
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**DAY 4. IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE COMPASSION IS NEEDED**

Building on the first three days of lessons this week, and what you know about the current state of the world, reflect for a moment on who primarily constitute the poor and “at risk” in the world today.

*Respond to the following questions:*

*Who would you consider to be the poor and at risk in the world today? \_\_\_\_\_*  
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*In our own society? \_\_\_\_\_*  
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*What characterizes those who are “at risk” (i.e., what has led to them being in this situation)? \_\_\_\_\_*  
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## DAY 5. WHAT MIGHT YOU DO IN RESPONSE?

Building on your responses from Day 4, take 5-10 minutes to fill-in the following table.

<b>Who is at risk?</b>	<b>What are possible “acts of compassion” that might help those in need?</b>
Internationally?	
In our society?	

Knowing that we cannot respond to all the needs in the world, prayfully consider which of these areas of need the Lord is particularly drawing you towards. Seek guidance on this through the remainder of this series and, if not already involved in ministries of compassion, be prepared to commit to action where you feel the Lord is leading you.

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### **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:**

Once again discuss the highlights of each day's lessons. Were any new insights gained during the week? If so, what were they and how are they likely to affect your faith, your actions, your life?

Identify and discuss some of the major issues facing the world and our society today. Has anything changed with regard to these issues in your lifetime? How? What are the sources of these issues/problems?

## Week 3: What Does it Mean to Do Justice?

Justice is one of those concepts that everyone agrees is important but which most people generally give little attention. Often, those concerned about social justice are seen as radical, wide-eyed idealists or political activists with an agenda. But Jesus was concerned about justice, and in fact most theologians would argue that it is because God requires justice that the redemptive act of Jesus' crucifixion was necessary. The scriptures reinforce time and time again that we as God's people are to be concerned with justice in this world, even if it seems elusive.

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### DAY 1. THE PLACE OF JUSTICE

Read Psalm 89: 11-14 and Isaiah 9:7, focusing on the following passages in particular.

- “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Thy throne; ...”
- “...On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness...”

*Reflect on and respond to the following questions:*

*Why are righteousness and justice linked in verse Psalm 89, verse 14? \_\_\_\_\_*

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*What are the implications of justice being part of the “foundation of Thy throne”?*

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### DAY 2. THE PLACE OF JUSTICE (continued)

Read Amos 5:21-24 and Proverbs 21:3, with specific emphasis on the following concepts:

- “But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”
- “To do righteousness and justice is desired by the Lord rather than sacrifice.”

*Respond to the following questions:*

*What ideas or truths about justice are taken from the image of “roll(ing) down like water”?* \_\_\_\_\_

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*What do these verses teach us today about losing our focus on what is most important in the sight of God?* \_\_\_\_\_

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### **DAY 3. THE CHALLENGES OF WORKING FOR JUSTICE**

Read Ephesians 5:11-13, with particular emphasis on the following:

- “And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;”

*Reflect on these verses and then respond to the following:*

*What does it mean to “expose” darkness in the world around us?* \_\_\_\_\_

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*What are the challenges we face in doing this?* \_\_\_\_\_

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*What are some ideas for overcoming these challenges?* \_\_\_\_\_

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### **DAY 4. IDENTIFYING INJUSTICE IN THE WORLD AROUND US.**

Thinking about the injustices that occur in the world around us, use the table below to identify some contemporary issues where you think injustice is a major contributor or factor. What are some ideas that we as Christians might consider as ways to counter these injustices?

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Source of Injustice</u>	<u>Possible Solutions</u>

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### **DAY 5. LINKS BETWEEN COMPASSION AND JUSTICE**

Re-read Deut 10:17-19, and read Psalm 146:5-10. These verses directly tie justice and compassion together. Consider these in light of the following:

<i>Compassion</i>	<i>Justice</i>
Focuses on reliving human need	Focuses on removing the causes of human need
Seeks to minister to individuals and families	Seeks to transform the structures of society where injustice prevails
Involves responding to a felt need of another	Responds from a belief that something is not right
Doesn't seek to change systems of injustice	Seeks to changes systems of injustice
Usually non-controversial	Often controversial because it involves changing structures in society; this creates discomfort among many
Biblical example: the Good Samaritan	Biblical example: Moses and the Israelites in Egypt
Ministry examples: tutoring underprivileged children; giving money to a domestic shelter; serving meals to the homeless; performing music for the sick or elderly; helping someone who has lost all their belongings	Ministry example: building low-income housing units for the poor; working to stop child prostitution; launching a racism education campaign for the community; avoiding businesses that gain at the expense of the underprivileged

*Respond to the following:*

*Why do you think this is a link between compassion and justice in the scriptures? \_\_\_\_\_*

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*Why do you think working against injustice can be so challenging? \_\_\_\_\_*

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**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:**

Once again highlight and discuss major insights or ideas generated during the week. Discuss why dealing with injustice is so challenging. Identify and discuss some of the major injustices identified by group members. What ideas emerged for how to address these injustices? What kinds of resources would be helpful to support interests in addressing injustices in the world and in our own community? (These should be reported back to Matt Marzluff so information and other resources can be made available.)

## **Week 4: The Importance of Humility**

The third primary attribute associated with Micah 6:8 is that of humility. Why is it that humility is linked to the issues of kindness and justice? Is it possible that the only way to have a heart for those in need is to indeed recognize our own condition in the sight of God apart from Christ? Who of us could stand before God without the saving grace He has provided for us through Jesus? It appears that we need to reckon with our own ego, pride and self-sufficiency if we are truly to be useful to God as ministers and administrators of compassion and justice.

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### **DAY 1. WHAT DOES HUMILITY HAVE TO DO WITH IT?**

In Micah 6:8 we read about the concept of walking humbly with God, and the link between humility, compassion and justice. Reflect on what it means to walk humbly with God.

*Discussion Questions:*

*What comes to mind when you think about walking with God and, more specifically, walking humbly with God? \_\_\_\_\_*

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*The world teaches us to rely only on ourselves, and to look to ourselves for all the answers life and what we should do. How does walking humbly with God run counter to the wisdom of the world? \_\_\_\_\_*

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### **DAY 2. CONSIDERING OTHERS MORE IMPORTANT THAN SELF**

Read what most consider to be one of the most challenging passages in the New Testament, found in Philippians 2:3-4, focusing on the following:

- “...with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself”
- “do not merely look out for your personal interests, but also for the interest of others.”

*Respond the following questions related to these readings:*

*Reflect on the barriers to considering others more important than self, especially if they are uneducated or poor. Why is this so challenging? \_\_\_\_\_*

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*How is it possible to accomplish this admonition from Paul? \_\_\_\_\_*

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### **DAY 3. HUMILITY: THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING GOD’S WILL**

Read Psalm 25:8-9. In this Psalm David stresses the link between humility and being receptive to the Lord’s teaching and leading.

- “Good and upright is the Lord; Therefore he instructs sinners in his way. He teaches the humble in justice, And He teaches the humble His way.”

*Respond to the following questions:*

*Why do you think humility is critical to understanding justice? \_\_\_\_\_*

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*Why is humility important if not essential to understanding God’s will and way? \_\_\_\_\_*

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### **DAY 4. WHEN PRIDE GETS IN THE WAY**

A strong scriptural case can be made that humility is a cornerstone of aligning our thinking and actions with God’s will. Proverbs 11:2 makes the point clearly as does I Peter 5:5-6:

- “When pride comes, then comes dishonor, But with the humble is wisdom”
- “...clothe yourselves with humility towards one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

The question then is how we can become more aligned with God’s will for us. If we are to boldly pursue acts of compassion and justice, it is essential to be aligned with God’s will for us. Otherwise, how can we be clear about which issues He is leading us to address and how He would have us to respond?

*Respond to the following questions: What are some examples of how our pride or ego stands in the way of more fully understanding God, His kingdom and His will for our life?*

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*In what ways does our pride keep us from responding to the needs of our neighbors (as discussed in week 2)? (You might also think about the story of the Good Samaritan, and some reasons why the priest and Levite might have passed by without helping.)*

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## **DAY 5. THE ANTIDOTE TO PRIDE**

From His humble entry into this world, Jesus’ life was the epitome of humility. He lived a simple life. His disciples were all simple men of simple means. He hung out with “sinners” and whom many treated as outcasts. He loved those that were in many ways the most difficult to love. Reflect on the humility of His life.

*Read Matthew 25:31-46 and then respond to these questions:*

*If Jesus, the King of Creation, sought out the poor, the weak and the outcast, who are we - as His disciples - to turn our backs on those of similar station in today’s world? Reflect on how awareness of Jesus’ attitudes might change your attitudes or lead you to action.*

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*In the parable of the sheep and the goats, what are the primary differences in attitudes between the sheep and goats?* \_\_\_\_\_

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### **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:**

Briefly discuss the major insights gained from lessons during the week. What stood out as the most notable? Why is humility so essential to understanding and acting on issues of compassion and justice? How does pride get in the way of our sensitivity to the needs of others? In thinking about pride as arrogance (another way to get at the core of this issue), how does arrogance create (often subtly) barriers to understanding and concern? What can we do to foster humility and overcome our pride or arrogance?

## **Week 5: How Should We Respond to God’s Calling?**

In our affluent society and community, it is not unusual to have difficulty identifying with the poor and those who are the subject of injustice. We tend to become isolated from the circumstances encountered by many around the world. This makes it difficult to be aware of let alone relate to the realities faced by others, including brother and sister Christians in our own community and around the world. Consider the following:

- If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, and agony of torture or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world
- If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death, you are more blessed than three billion people in the world
- If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a safe place to sleep you are richer than 75% of people in the world
- If you have money in the bank, in your wallet and spare change in a dish someplace you are among the top 8% of the world’s wealthy.

In light of our condition, we need to dig deeper to think more clearly about these issues and how we should respond. The lessons this week help us to think more about who God is calling us to be and what He is calling us to do.

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### **DAY 1. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CITIZEN OF GOD’S KINGDOM?**

Read Eph 2:13-22, Phil 3:15-21, 2 Cor 5:17-21 and John 17:14-21. Focus on the following passages.

- “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and are of God’s household,…”
- “For our citizenship is in heaven,…”
- “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ,…”
- “They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”

*Discussion Questions:*

*Do you feel more like a stranger from this world or heaven? \_\_\_\_\_*

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*What are the characteristics of citizenship, or being an ambassador? \_\_\_\_\_*

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*What does it mean to be in but not of this world?* \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Day 2. WHAT IS OUR IDENTITY?**

Read the first two verses of Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians. Do you see a theme emerging?

*Respond the following questions related to these readings:*

*From the readings, are followers of Jesus primarily referred to as saints or sinners? How does this affect your identity?* \_\_\_\_\_  
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*How might this affect the way we respond to God's calling to be ambassadors?* \_\_\_\_\_  
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**DAY 3. WHAT CAN GET IN THE WAY?**

In the first three chapters of Revelation, John talks about seven churches in Asia and the circumstances that had evolved in these communities of Christians. They offer keen insights into dangers we must heed as well. Pay particular attention to the following passages about the churches in Ephesus, Sardis and Laodicea.

- “But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.” (Rev 2:2-7)
- “Wake up...Remember therefore what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent.” (Rev 3:1-4)
- “So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.” (Rev 3:15-22)

*Discussion Questions:*

What are implications of “hav(ing) left your first love?” \_\_\_\_\_

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In what ways do we sometimes fall asleep in our faith, and what are the dangers? \_\_\_\_

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What does it mean to become lukewarm, and what are the implications? \_\_\_\_\_

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What does Revelation suggest about the relationship between wealth and security, and their relationship to becoming lukewarm? \_\_\_\_\_

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#### **DAY 4. WORLDVIEWS, ATTITUDES OR CHOICES THAT KEEP US FROM RESPONDING GOD’S CALLING.**

Often, as has been suggested, our setting creates the filters through which we see the world. As Christians, we must regularly test our ideas with the truth of scripture and be willing to let light shine on our own thinking that might be less than God’s intention for us. Consider the following examples of “worldviews” that can sometimes stand in the way of our giving attention to God’s will for His disciples.

“I deserve what I have accomplished so others can do the same.”

“Poor people just need to work harder.”

“There’s really nothing I can do to help.”

“God can’t really use me - I have too many of my own problems.”

“Let somebody else do it that has more time.”

“The second coming of Jesus is near - so what we do doesn’t really make a difference.”

“I’m not ready to make any changes in my lifestyle or attitudes.”

“Jesus accepts me for who I am so I don’t need to change.”

*Respond to the following question:*

*How are your worldview, attitudes or choices inconsistent with being an ambassador for God’s kingdom? (Hints: examine who are the primary recipients of your money, time, gifts and resources; examine if your worldview, attitudes or choices act to diminish others) \_\_\_\_\_*

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**DAY 5. WHAT DO MY AMBITIONS HAVE TO DO WITH IT?**

Often times we allow our own ambitions to govern our lives. They dictate our priorities, how we think and what we do. Read 2 Cor 5:6-9, with particular emphasis on the following:

- “Therefore also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.”

*Respond to the following questions:*

*How do your primary ambitions in life (be honest) relate to 2 Cor 5:9? \_\_\_\_\_*  
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*How does your response to the question above influence your understanding of Jesus’ commandments concerning what should be most important in life? \_\_\_\_\_*  
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**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:**

Once again share the major insights gained during the week. Do members of your small group feel like they are ambassadors for God and His Kingdom? Does casting our identity as a sinner rather than a saint stand in the way of us growing to be more like Christ? What attitudes do we have that allow us to minimize or disregard our calling to respond to the needs of those around us and around the world? Is being Jesus’ disciple affected by our own ambitions?

## **Week 6: Making Personal Choices Affecting Compassion and Justice**

Much of this series has pointed to the spiritual growth, wisdom and transformation needed to be aware of, let alone respond appropriately to, the needs of those around us, the downtrodden, the poor, the under-represented and those against whom injustices are regularly perpetrated. The scriptures, however, present to us a call to action. They suggest an integral intertwining of a closer personal walk with the Lord, sharing the Gospel and outreach to those in need.

This week we pose a series of challenging questions that will require digging a little deeper into our personal attitudes and lifestyles, and perhaps lead us to re-evaluate some of our priorities and ambitions. Rather than being fearful of such an inquiry, however, we should wrap ourselves in God's grace, seek direction and be open to His teaching. This is a positive exercise, for if we are not broadening our horizons and opening ourselves to the Lord's leading in new and exciting ways we stand in danger of becoming like the Christians in Ephesus, Sardis and Laodicea.

Here are a few questions to consider as you go through the lessons this week. To what extent are we perhaps contributing to injustice, both individually and as a society, by the products we buy, investments we make or lifestyle choices we make? Does our society's penchant for consumerism and consumption have detrimental impacts on our own society and others around the world? What can we do be more aware of injustices in the world and what are appropriate approaches and options for addressing them as Christians? If we feel more drawn to ministries of compassion, what is the appropriate approach to acts of compassion? Are some approaches patronizing or creating unhealthy dependencies?

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### **DAY 1. THE NEED FOR TRANSFORMATION**

Read Romans 12:1-2, with particular emphasis on the following:

- "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good, acceptable and perfect."

This passage tells us we need to be careful not to be captured by the ways and views of this world, but seek transformation by the renewing of our minds. We are not supposed to disconnect our minds from our faith. This confirms that we indeed can be transformed by God's grace into someone who can actually be used for Kingdom work.

*Reflect on this passage and respond to the following questions:*

*Can you identify attitudes or values that keep you from responding to God's calling to reach out to those in need? If so, identify them. \_\_\_\_\_*

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*It is clear that transformation occurs through renewing our mind, by God's mercy. Think about and write down ways in which you think you need to be transformed to become more aligned with God's will and ways. \_\_\_\_\_*

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## **DAY 2. EVALUATING THE IMPACTS OF OUR PERSONAL ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS ON COMPASSION AND JUSTICE**

Recently, some evangelical leaders (such as Rick Warren) have called on Christians to become more concerned about the environment and our lifestyles that may diminish the earth and create hardships on others. One interesting Internet tool that helps identify the impact of our personal choices on the environment, and which may have implications to issues of compassion and justice, can be found at [www.myfootprint.org](http://www.myfootprint.org). If you have Internet access, log onto your computer, go to this Website and follow the instructions.

*After using this Internet tool, respond to the following questions:*

*What impact, if any, does the result of this assessment have on your attitudes about personal lifestyle choices? \_\_\_\_\_*

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*Identify ways in which your lifestyle choices may have implications to issues of compassion and justice in your community, the United States and around the world?*

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**DAY 3. EVALUATING OUR PERSONAL ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS  
(continued)**

When the scriptures talk about the wealthy, and the challenges they face in having the correct attitude about wealth and sharing, we often think the reference is to the Rockefellers, Carnegies and Gates of the world. To see where you lie in the spectrum of the world's wealthy, go the following Website and fill-in your annual income:  
[www.globalrichlist.com](http://www.globalrichlist.com).

*Read I Tim 6:17-19, reflect on the results of the Internet exercise and respond to the following:*

*What is your reaction to the results of the Internet exercise, especially as it relates to issues of compassion and justice?* \_\_\_\_\_  
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*What is the major lesson you take away, as it applies to your life, from the I Timothy passage?* \_\_\_\_\_  
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**DAY 4. EXPERIENCING GOD**

Henry Blackaby was involved in developing one of the most widely used Christian study guides in recent years entitled "Experiencing God." He makes several important observations, including:

1. God is always at work around you.
2. God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.
3. God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.
4. God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.
5. God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.
6. You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.
7. You come to know God by experience as you obey Him and He accomplishes His work through you.

*Reflecting on these observations, respond to the following questions:*

*Blackaby suggests that we should not wait for a revelation to become part of God's workforce, but rather look around us to see what God is doing and then get involved. Where do you see God working around you in people or situations related to compassion and justice (e.g., with a family member, friend or neighbor, in your community or around the world)?* \_\_\_\_\_

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*What kinds of adjustments do you think are needed in your life to join God in what He is doing?*

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## **DAY 5. BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING**

The scriptures teach us that to whom much is given, much is required. This is another way of saying we are blessed to be a blessing, in whatever way or ways God has blessed us. As we finish this series on faith, compassion and justice - and what the Lord requires of us - think of ways you have been blessed and prayerfully consider how God would use you to be a blessing to others.

*Read Genesis 12: 1-3 and respond to the following:*

*Identify at least three ways in which you think God has blessed and prepared you to be part of the work of His Kingdom.* \_\_\_\_\_

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*Identify ways you think you need to grow, change or be transformed to have a closer walk with God and be of greater use in the work of His Kingdom, particularly related to issues of compassion and justice.* \_\_\_\_\_

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### **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:**

What new insights or perspectives did you experience this week? As you look back on the entire series, what would say has been the most compelling or life-changing principle or insight gained? To what extent have you experienced a greater conviction to:

- increase your awareness of areas of need for compassion and justice
- become more actively involved in acts of compassion
- become more actively involved in supporting efforts to overcome injustices or work towards achieving justice
- seek the Lord's guidance to walk humbly with Him
- respond to God's calling as Jesus' disciple to reach out to others with spiritually, emotionally and/or physical needs.

This completes our study. May God bless each of us by drawing us closer to Him, enabling us to walk humbly with Him and respond more fully to our calling as Jesus' disciples.