

LIVING IN AN UNFAIR WORLD
Sermon Series: Building Godly Values That Last
Next Steps Devotional Guide
June 19, 2022 — Father's Day
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Instructions: This devotional guide can be used individually, by families or in a small group as a way to reinforce the biblical truth you learned from the sermon. If you are using this at home, spread the points throughout the whole week. If you are using this in a small group, divide people up into sub-groups to discuss and share and bring them back to the whole group to share. Do not force anyone to share. Be sure to pray in your group.

1. *"That's not fair."* We often hear a child say that. There probably have been times where you thought life was unfair. Think back to a time you either felt this or thought this or said this. What was the situation? Why did you think something was unfair? What was your response?
2. Read [Ecclesiastes 3:16](#) and [Ecclesiastes 8:11](#) in point #1 in your sermon notes under the heading, "5 Snapshots Of Unfairness." With more and more District Attorneys siding with a liberal and "progressive" positions on crime, we are experiencing [Isaiah 59:14](#), *"Our courts oppose the righteous, and justice is nowhere to be found. Truth stumbles in the streets, and honesty has been outlawed"* (NLT). Do believe justice is being served in our courts? Why or why not?
3. Read [Ecclesiastes 4:1](#) in point #2 under the heading, "5 Snapshots Of Unfairness." History seems to be nothing more than a recording of one nation trying to dominate another nation, the rich trying to dominate the poor, the strong trying to dominate the weak, one race trying to dominate another race, and men trying to dominate women. In our lifetime, we have seen Russian invade Ukraine and the horrors that war is bringing. Conservative estimates state that every day 16 Christians are martyred for their faith around the world. Do you think Christianity is under attack and if so, why and how?
4. Read [Ecclesiastes 5:8](#) and [Ecclesiastes 10:5](#) in point #3 under the heading, "5 Snapshots Of Unfairness." Many times we look at an upcoming election and the candidates running and we ask or think, *"Is this the best America has to offer? There has to be more people who have character, integrity, vision and leadership than this!"*
 - a. There is no question we see corruption in politicians and the political process. For example, it is federal crime to demonstrate outside or near U.S. Supreme Court Justices's homes. Yet, President Biden's own Justice Department will not enforce this law. It causes one to think that maybe the agenda is the hope that someone will kill one or more of the conservative U.S. Supreme Court Justices so that President Biden can nominate a more liberal and progressive nominee. There is a "surface" agenda and then there is the "real" agenda. What do you think that is and why?
 - b. Take your Bible and read [Ephesians 6:10-18](#). According to this passage, what's the real agenda, who is behind it and how do we resist it?
5. Read [Ecclesiastes 8:14](#) and [Ecclesiastes 7:15a](#) in your sermon notes in point #4 under the heading, "5 Snapshots Of Unfairness." We see unscrupulous corporations succeed while ethical corporations do not. We see dishonest employees get promoted while honest employees do not. We see drug lords, mafia bosses and porn kings live in luxury while honest, hard-working people do not. When was a time you were not rewarded when you really did deserve it?
6. Read [Ecclesiastes 9:11](#) in point #4 in your sermon notes under the heading, "5 Snapshots Of Unfairness." We often see that the best talented people are not always successful. If you have ever watched the Olympics, it is not uncommon for an athlete to train for years for this opportunity only to get injured or sick and they're out. Is that fair? Any many times in our society, the biggest salaries do not always go to the the smartest people. We pay athletes millions to play a sport but we keep teachers pay and police offer's pay to a minimum. Why do you think we do this?
7. There are reasons God allows this kind of injustice and unfairness to occur. Read [Deuteronomy 11:26](#) in point #1 under the heading, *"Why Does God Allow This?"* Personal freedom — the freedom to choose is one of the greatest gifts God has given us. It is what brought down Adam and Eve and every single person ever since.
 - a. When and where did someone's personal choice cause you to experience something unfair? How did you deal with it?
 - b. When and where did your personal choice cause someone to experience something unfair? How did they and you deal with it?

8. Read Ecclesiastes 3:17 and Isaiah 30:18 in point #2 under the heading, “*Why Does God Allow This?*” Judgment Day! Very few people think about it. How often do you think about it and what affects does it have on your life today?
9. Anyone who has ever had children know that children are born with a selfish nature. You don’t have to teach a kid to say, “*Mine.*” Our culture teaches that everyone has weaknesses, faults and some rough edges we need to work on in our lives, BUT everyone is basically good. In the book and movie, Lord of the Flies, the basic presupposition is if you remove God, law and justice, people will start treating each other as animals. We saw this with the Holocaust, child and animal abuse, gang rapes and etc. Read Ecclesiastes 3:18 in point #3 in your sermon notes under the heading, “*Why Does God Allow This?*” This all proves we need a Savior and it is not government. Why do you think with all these horrible atrocities, people keep turning to government for the answers rather than God?
10. Read Romans 5:4 in point #4 in your sermon notes under the heading, “*Why Does God Allow This?*” Suffering does not automatically produce and build character. Suffering is only able to do this when one chooses to respond to it in the right way.
 - a. Who do you know that experienced suffering and they chose not to let it build their character? What was the proof? What does this tell you about how to respond to your own suffering?
 - b. Who do you know that experienced suffering and they chose to let it build their character? What was the proof? What does this tell you about how to respond to your own suffering?
11. Read Jesus’ words in John 16:33b, 1 Peter 4:12-13 and 2 Corinthians 6:4 in point #1 under the heading, “*Three Things God Wants You To Do When Life Is Unfair.*”
 - a. Former atheist and Christian apologist C.S. Lewis once said, “*Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny.*” Do you agree? Why or why not? Where have you see this in your own life?
 - b. Read Jesus’ words in Luke 23:43 in point #1 under the heading, “*Three Things God Wants You To Do When Life Is Unfair.*” How do you think it was possible for Jesus to pray such a prayer when it was our sin that put Him on the cross?
12. Read Jesus words in Matthew 5:39 and Matthew 5:43-45a in point #2 under the heading, “*Three Things God Wants You To Do When Life Is Unfair.*”
 - a. Booker T. Washington was a black man who experienced racism and prejudice his entire life. He once said, “*I will never allow another man to control my life by allowing him to make me hate him.*” That’s a choice. When have you worked for justice in the world without seeking retaliation, getting even, and getting revenge? What did you do and what were the results?
 - b. Read Jeremiah 22:3, Proverbs 29:7 and Proverbs 16:11 in point #2 under the heading, “*Three Things God Wants You To Do When Life Is Unfair.*” We are commanded to take the moral high ground when we experience injustice and unfairness. We are to specifically love those who treat us unfairly and to do something good for them. When have you done this and where the results?
13. Read 1 Peter 2:19 in point #3 under the heading, “*Three Things God Wants You To Do When Life Is Unfair.*”
 - a. There is no sin that God treats harsher, except maybe pride, than that of injustice. From Genesis through Revelation God has a special heart for people who are treated unfairly because He is a God of justice. Injustice is God giving all of us what we deserve — death and eternal damnation to Hell. Justice is God giving us what we need — salvation through Christ and eternity in heaven. God is like “Nationwide — He is always on your side. Where have you seen this in your own life?”
 - b. In the old days with cameras with film, when you took a picture, you did not immediately have a picture. What you had was a negative, which when developed, became a positive — the picture itself you took. How can you take the unfair negatives in your own life and turn them into a positive picture of God’s grace, love, mercy, and support?
 - c. Read Ecclesiastes 11:8 in your sermon notes in point #3 under the heading, “*Three Things God Wants You To Do When Life Is Unfair.*” Solomon has come to his conclusion about life and it is not a pretty picture. He is bitter. How and why do you think this happened to him?
14. Read 1 Peter 4:19 and 2 Corinthians 4:17 in your sermon notes in point #3 under the heading, “*Three Things God Wants You To Do When Life Is Unfair.*” You’re never going to get an explanation for all the injustices and unfair things that have happened to you and others. The good news is: you do not need an explanation. Why?