



Small Discipleship Groups Sermon Guide Questions 25 SEPTEMBER 2022



Conversation starter to begin:

Have you ever fasted? Why or why not? What benefits, if any, did you experience?

What is your initial reaction to reports of oppression in your community? ‘

Before you proceed:

Read **Isaiah 58** aloud. Before you begin, pray and ask God to enlighten you, to show you where he has been at work and present in the previous days and through others. Pause in your prayer and listen. Ask Him to illuminate the Scripture to you.

“A Mission Field of Justice” 25 SEPTEMBER 2022

1. What is the connection between religious practices like fasting and concern for justice (58:13; see 56:1-2)? How is personal transformation or spiritual renewal related to seeking justice for the poor (vv 8-14)?
2. Note the relationship between the “yoke of oppression” and the “pointing finger” (v 9). Where ought God’s people be looking to discover and remove oppression?
3. In which religious activities do you find yourself just going through the motions: Attending worship service? Reading the Bible? Prayer? How ought these activities impact us individually and as a community?
4. If we direct an attitude of self-denial (or fasting) toward social action, where will our “pointing finger” likely point first? Have you participated in any forms of oppression of others at work, church, or socially?
6. Do you know any role model of this combination of piety and practical concern for others? How has their example affected you?
5. Would you be willing to fast from food or other forms of self-fulfillment for one day this week? How can you use that spiritual activity to help satisfy the needs of the oppressed?
7. Pray for the oppressed in your community and nation. Pray for those who labor in the work of justice and for more labors to come alongside -- that faith and love would bring about a harvest of justice in Jesus’ name.

