

The Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible Study Program

A Leader's Guide for Group Discussion

Justice

Song: "A Place at the Table"
CD 2, Track 1

Insert L-1 through L-4

Composer: Lori True
Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible Music CD

Materials Needed

Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible and Music CD, CD player, Participant's Worksheet, Candles (1 each), Poster Board.

Setting the Stage

Before this session, mail (or e-mail) any member of the group that may not have been present at the last session the Participant's Worksheet for this session. Also, send a reminder of the date and time of the session as well as directions to the meeting place (if different from the church). To enhance an atmosphere of **Justice**, have the song "A Place at the Table" from the Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible Music CD playing in the background when the participants arrive.

Warm Up - Optional (10 minutes)

Leader: The refrain of the song "A Place at the Table" tells us that it is our responsibility to work for justice wherever injustices exist. For our warm up, this is a simple word game we are going to play a word game - similar to Wheel of Fortune. (Have the blanks set up as below in an easy-to-read format on a large piece of poster board.) Each of us will have alternating opportunities to guess which letters are in these **Words of Injustice**. With each correct guess, write that letter on the appropriate space of the work. If a person guesses a letter, and that letter is not in the word, the turn moves to the next person. If any person chooses a correct letter, she gets 5 seconds to say the word out loud. If she cannot, then it moves on to the next person. **Only the person who selects a correct letter has a chance to solve the puzzle.**

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F A M I N E
P O V E R T Y
A B O R T I O N
P R E J U D I C E
C R I M E
I G N O R A N C E
D I S E A S E
W A R

Opening Discussion (15 minutes)

Begin by having the participants discuss their answers to the following questions: When you hear the word "justice" what do you think of? Is justice the same as "fair," as in, "that's not fair?" There is a popular saying "If you want peace, work for justice." How is justice related to peace?

Ask anyone to volunteer an example from their past of how correcting an injustice in a situation (between family, friends or in the community) helped to bring peace to a situation.

Spiritual Awakening - Opening Prayer

Pray together the **Opening Prayer** at the top of insert page L-2

Spiritual Awakening - Recognizing (5 minutes)

Ask for volunteers to read aloud each of the Scripture passages in the **Recognizing** section of **Spiritual Awakening** on insert page L-2. Remind the participants that each reader will pause for a few seconds of silence after each passage to allow anyone to offer any spontaneous thought, prayer, praise or thanksgiving that this Scripture might inspire. After the final Scripture is read, ask the group, "What else do these Scriptures teach us about **Justice**?" Share and discuss any responses.

Spiritual Awakening - Reflecting (15 minutes)

Read Luke 16:19-31 (Page 1121). Discuss the following questions in the context of Social Justice. Reflect on your relationship with the disadvantaged in our society – the people like Lazarus. When do you think about them? Why do you think some people forget disadvantaged people? Do you help them? How? Do you pray for them? What person or group of people in your world could be substituted for Lazarus in this story?

Spiritual Awakening – Reflecting (15 minutes)

Read Luke 16:19-31 (Page 1121) a second time. Discuss the following questions in the context of God's Justice. Do you think the poor and disadvantaged have a better chance of receiving an eternal reward? Are people of means held to a higher standard in facing God's Justice? Discuss how you think we will be judged in relation to our comparative wealth with the rest of the world?

Group Prayer (5 minutes)

Leader: Dearest Jesus, we pray that in Your mercy, we may one day be judged worthy to enter the gates of heaven. Accept our group prayer today with this goal in mind. We praise You, we thank You for blessing our lives. Accept these, praises, prayers and petitions as a visible sign of our faith and need for Your loving justice: **enter aloud all individual intentions.** In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Faith in Action/ Closing Prayer (10 minutes)

Read silently the **Faith in Action** article "The Vacant Lot" on insert page L-4. Discuss as a group what you think some of the "weeds, trash, and pests" of our society are.

After the discussion, have each participant come forward to light a candle and pray silently for God's justice to prevail in each of these problems in our society.

Fellowship (15 minutes)

After the session is completed and while refreshments are served, play softly in the background: "A Place at the Table" from the Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible Music CD.

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