

# Three (3) Steps to Pursuing Justice in Your Church

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*“Learn to do what is right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.” (ISAIAH 1:17)*

## **BECOME AWARE!**

- As a community, learn some of the basics about Biblical Justice
  - Recruit members for a small group and together learn about some unjust situations in your local community or beyond
  - As a small group or church, study a book, watch a film or invite a speaker
  - Attend a workshop or local event
- Learn and educate about life issues like housing, employment
- Delve deeply into Scripture passages related to justice
- Pray to discern where God is leading your church
- Pray for passionate leaders

## **ASSESS RESOURCES!**

- Church leaders with a heart for justice can have a powerful impact on the attitudes of their members. Tap into resources **INSIDE** your church walls:
  - Church members who have a passion for global issues
  - Congregational members who have skills (lawyers, law enforcement, social workers)
- Look to those **OUTSIDE** of your church walls who are willing to educate and resource your church: they are often willing to be invited to a conversation:
  - People or organizations who are already working for justice in your community
  - Social workers and police in your community

## **ACT!**

- Do a Justice Sermon Series
- Organize a Justice Film Festival
- Mobilize resources that are already in your congregation and community
- Be supportive of those who are engaged by praying and providing words of encouragement
- Determine if your church is a safe place for everyone. Consider those with disabilities or mental illness, refugees, and those who have been abused
- Assess your church’s policies and procedures for injustices
- Explore your practices in how your church chooses leaders
- Link community members with congregational members through conversations
- Serve on a board of an organization in your community
- Continually ask - *are those who face injustice being empowered?*
- **Start small and start soon!**