

Master Teacher Key Study JUST GOD

(15–20 minutes, easy set-up)

Use this outline and any of the corresponding activities to share the Biblical Truth with students.

Intro: No one is excluded from God's justice.

Description: God is a just God and the author of justice. He cannot turn His eye from injustice and unrighteousness and not deal with it. Yet God's justice coincides with His love, grace, and mercy. When God is forced to deal with injustice, it is a measure of His redemptive work to bring people into a relationship with Him. But it is also a means of dealing with evil in the world and providing mercy for those who are victimized by the injustice of others.

Illustration: In the motion picture *Catch Me If You Can*, a con artist (played by Leonardo DiCaprio) gains millions of dollars over several years by printing his own fake checks and getting them cashed by charming the lovely ladies at the bank window. The FBI is hot on his case the whole time, but the con man is always one step ahead, thinking that he will always outsmart them and never get caught. Eventually, the FBI catches their man. Maybe it's just a movie, but in life there are so many who think that they are free to do whatever they want regardless of what they do.

1. The righteous can always call on God for help (Ps. 9:7–12).

Description: People who have a relationship with God are not immune from either the troubles they create on their own or those brought on by others. In dark situations, they have the advantage of being able to call on God for His help. Throughout history, God has shown a track record of faithfulness to His people, giving the righteous confidence to trust Him with the outcome.

Illustration: Comic books are full of superheroes with special powers who end up saving someone in dire straights. A scream is heard. Suddenly, Peter Parker becomes Spider-Man, who leaps across tall buildings and throws webs in order to bring a halt to the source of chaos. Such dark situations always end up with happy endings. Christians have a superhero with really endless power who is always ready and available to help them when faced with a tough situation. When we cry out to God, He is always there.

Application: The stresses of life can easily become deep and make us feel like we are dog-paddling to survive the day. God wants to give us victory in overcoming struggles, and all we have to do is call out to Him as the Psalmist suggested.

2. The wicked will not be left standing (Ps. 9:13–18).

Description: People who do not have a relationship with God receive a double whammy. They get caught in their own web of trickery and deceit. Then, when they face God's judgment, they cannot stand against Him and so face eternity without Him.

Illustration: A man had been charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and was no longer allowed to drive. This punishment was rather inconvenient for the man, so one evening he got on his motorcycle to drive across town, even though he knew that it was a violation. His speeding caught the eye of a policeman, and so began the pursuit. Now, the man who wasn't supposed to drive will never again do so because he lost both legs in the horrible crash that resulted at the end of the chase. The

courts were not happy with the man when it was his time to go before the judge not only because of his foolishness but also because the pursuing policeman was injured too.

Application: It's never a good idea to go with the ways of the world and join in its injustice. With God as the ultimate just judge, wickedness can never win in the end. There are eternal costs to pay.

3. Only what God thinks matters (Ps. 9:19–20).

Description: Sometimes people can get puffed up with pride and power and begin to think that they have more control than anyone should. They try to play God in their own hearts and minds. God can humble the most powerful people in an instant. Great or small, man cannot stand against God, who is the ultimate rule of justice in the end.

Illustration: Tiger Woods, the greatest golf player in the world, thought that he could get away with anything because of his fame and fortune. After his private affairs became exposed, he said, "I stopped living by the core values that I was taught to believe in. I knew that my actions were wrong, but I convinced myself that normal rules didn't apply . . . I was wrong. I was foolish. I don't get to play by different rules. The same boundaries that apply to everyone apply to me." We are all merely men and the rules that we must play by are found in God and His Word. They are the same for everyone.

Application: Only what God thinks matters. Living by His Word is a sure way to live in line with what He says is right and just. Even what we think of ourselves will be thrown out the window when we stand before God because we are human and He is God. We need to live by His standards starting right now.

Conclusion: God's justice shows no favoritism.

Description: Every single person, no matter what faith, faces the justice of God. Christians have the advantage of a relationship with God because of knowing that Christ has paid the price for the judgment that they deserve. Those who are of the world face the same level of justice, but they must face the consequences for their actions because they have not asked Christ to take their place.

Application: God's justice has everything to do with living in a right relationship with Him and with others. Because God is just, He cannot indulge the injustice of people who act on their own self-centeredness. God plays no favorites. He lives by His own standards and expects those in relationship with Him to do the same.