



Lesson 7

God Is Just

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM."

Exodus 3:14a

We believe that you are your child's first and most important spiritual leader. To support you in that mission, we have created this tool to go along with each lesson your grade school age children are learning at Quest on Sundays.

BIBLE ACCOUNT:

David receives Justice

2 Samuel 11, 12:1-23

Justice & Mercy together

Psalm 51:1-4

LESSON VERSE:

1 John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."



God is perfectly just

PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
Thank you that you are a just God. Thank you that you have mercy so that I can be forgiven in Jesus when fairness demands I be punished. Amen.

DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What does it mean to be fair?
- Have you ever been treated unfairly? How did that make you feel?
- ★ What if being treated fairly meant you would be punished?
- ★ What are consequences?
- ❖ If you are forgiven, are there still consequences for your sin?

LIVE IT OUT!

- Each night this week, before bed, think back on the day and ask God to bring to mind times when you sinned in thought, action, or in not doing something you should have done. Remember 1 John 1:9.



TRAIL GUIDE DEVOTIONAL

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." - 1 John 1:9

LESSON 7: God is Merciful but the Debt of Sin Cannot go Unpaid

According to God's justice, we are each given exactly what is due to us. That, in fact, is the bad news that makes the "good news" so good. God is righteous, perfectly so, and as such cannot violate his own character. Justice is simply God carrying out His righteousness. God does not do what is righteous but rather, what God does is righteous because God did it. This is an important distinction if we are to avoid confusing the issue with our human ideas of "fairness".

Obviously, this presents a problem for creatures like us. God says, "the wages of sin is death." He did not say that the wages of sin can be offset by good deeds. There is no "getting off on good behavior." If a person doesn't come to grips with this truth, they cannot fully grasp the significance of Jesus Christ and what He accomplished for them.

God is just. Sin incurs a debt and that debt is death, both physical and spiritual...the "wrath of God." God cannot simply set aside that debt because he doesn't desire to see us punished. What parent enjoys punishing their child? In order for God to be just the debt must be paid. Enter the "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." All sin debt is paid. Those who die apart from Christ will pay for their sins, while those in Christ have had their debt paid by Jesus.

Why so harsh? God's righteousness, justice, and wrath must be fully expressed in order that His divine love might shine in all its glory. Thank you Jesus!

"Then, too, unless we give a real content to the wrath of God, unless we hold that men really deserve to have God visit upon them the painful consequences of their wrongdoing, we empty God's forgiveness of its meaning." - Leon Morris



MEDITATING ON THE WORD

Romans 3:21-26

Nahum 1:2-3a, 6-8

Revelation 6:16, 19:11

Genesis 6:5 Matthew 12:18