

WEEK 3

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Whether it's to stop yourself from saying something stupid, or see where you'll be in 10 years, or experience your favorite moment in history firsthand, we all wish we had a time machine sometimes, right? While time machines might not actually exist, the Bible can sometimes feel a little bit like a time machine. It's the story of the God who exists outside of time and had a plan to save the world before time even existed. God's plan was fulfilled through Jesus 2,000 years ago, but prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Amos left us hints about God's plan hundreds of years before that. So what was that plan? In this 4-week series, we'll discover that **Jesus' mission was to set people free and rebuild what has been destroyed** — and we can join Him on that mission, in part, by **doing justice** and **remembering** all God has done.

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus calls us to do justice.

THE BIBLE

Luke 11:37-46; Amos 5:1-24; Acts 2:42

- If you had a time machine, how would you use it to impress people?
- When you feel insecure, which are you more likely to do, and why: pretend to be something you're not? Show off? Put someone down?
- How did the religious people in Jesus' time use religion to make themselves feel important? Do you think this is still a problem today? Why or why not?
- Explain Jesus' metaphor about the cup. Even when we seem to be following God's rules, what are some things our hearts can be secretly filled with?
- Have you ever felt like a cup that was clean on the outside but dirty on the inside? How do you think God is inviting you to change that?
- Why do you think it's important for us to recognize and lament the ways we've contributed to injustice?
- What's one way you've contributed to injustice? If you lamented that today, what was that experience like?
- Read Acts 2:42. How is this an example of Jesus' followers doing justice? What could we learn from this?
- What are some challenges we might face when pursuing justice? How can we prepare for them?
- What are some ways you'd like to grow on your journey to do justice? How can we grow together?

ACTIVITY

Research and choose something small but meaningful your group can do together to advocate for others this week. You might research "fair trade" together. Then spend a week paying attention to where you spend your money. The chocolate, clothes, shoes, or games you buy — are they the result of exploitive business practices or fair trade? How could you better support ethical business practices?