SO WHAT

- What is the significance of God's fair judgment of us? How do you accept the truth that God is both loving and just?
- What does righteousness have to do with how God judges? How important is it to live a righteous life?
- How would you describe God's mercy? How merciful is God in your life?

NOW WHAT

- Who is one person in your life whom you have treated unjustly or unfairly? Treat that person with the love of Jesus Christ this week.
- Over what area in your life do you need God's righteousness to rule? Ask God for more of His righteousness to be upon you.
- Is there a family member, relative, or friend whom you need to forgive? Ask for God's mercy as you reconcile with that person.

PRAYER

- Ask the Holy Spirit for a greater revelation of God as being both loving and just.
- Pray for God's justice and righteousness to reign in our judicial system and courts.
- Intercede for your family members, friends, and loved ones who still do not have a relationship with Jesus to receive His mercy and forgiveness.

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WEEK 3

Just God

NOTES

CONNECT

- Tell about a time when your father or mother spanked you as a child. What was their reason for spanking you?
- Have you ever been treated unjustly by someone? How did you respond? What happened?
- If you would be given a chance to become a lawyer, what kind of court cases will you handle? Why?

WORD

6God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you 7and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.
2 THESSALONIANS 1:6,7 (ALSO READ 2 THESSALONIANS 1:5-10.)

WHAT

God has already set a day of judgment for mankind, and He will judge everyone without impartiality on that day. But as much as this passage is true, we also believe that God's justice happens every time. How does a loving and just God give His judgments?

1 God judges fairly.

He will judge the world in righteousness; he will govern the peoples with justice. PSALM 9:8

Many people do not realize that God is a just God and we probably find it inconsistent for God to be both loving and just. Moreover, there are those who accuse God of being passive towards the countless cases of injustice in the world. But the Word of God says that God judges everyone on earth fairly. How does this truth affect your faith in God?

2 God judges righteously.

. . . let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.
PSALM 98:9

With so much unrighteousness here on earth, we can trust that our God is a righteous God. Even if the world's justice system is tainted with wickedness, God is still the ultimate and supreme Judge who rules and reigns above all. How important is it to have righteousness in the judicial system of our nation?

3 God gives clemency.

The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him . . . DANIEL 9:9

A dictionary defines clemency as "kind or merciful treatment of a person who could be given harsh punishment." Clemency (mercy or pardon) is not an unjust act nor does it mean tolerance. This is given to someone who has already been proven and established as guilty. Jesus Christ's death on the cross is a clear indication that there is someone guilty. The fact that He has to die an atoning death establishes our guilt. It is needed to pay the penalty of our sin. How grateful are you for God's clemency?