

Feasting with the Poor

Resource Guide // Citizens Church

MIND

Books:

- + [Generous Justice](#) - Tim Keller : A must-read that explores God's heart for justice & why we should "do justice" as believers
- + [Follow Me to Freedom](#) - Shane Claiborne & John M. Perkins : Two narratives of lifestyles that seek to simply love as Jesus loves + a humble invitation to do likewise
- + [Pursuing Justice](#) - Ken Wytsma : A work that questions our pursuit for meaning + calls us back to an understanding of biblical justice
- + [Subversive Jesus](#) - Craig Greenfield : One family's experiment in putting Jesus' most "counter-cultural" teachings into practice

Articles:

- + [Defining Social Justice](#) - Ken Wytsma : Investigates word associations, cultural context, and biblical interpretations of justice
- + [The Meaning of Difference : Framework Essay](#) - Rosenblum & Travis : Explores from a secular perspective - what is privilege? what is oppression? why is reflecting on race, gender, class, etc. important?
- + [No Jesus, No Justice](#) - Andy Crouch : Emphasizes the ways that Jesus & social justice are intricately intertwined

Teachings:

- + [Lecture on Unity in the Midst of Diversity with Christena Cleveland](#)
- + [Lecture on Power, Injustice, and the Image of God with Andy Crouch](#)
- + [Speakers from the Justice Conference](#)

HEART

Scripture:

- + [Micah 6:8](#) - "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"
- + [Isaiah 58](#) - "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard." from v. 6-8
- + [Luke 14:12-14](#) - "He said also to the man who had invited him, 'When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.'"
- + [Isaiah 61](#)
- + [Matthew 25:31-46](#)

Song:

- + [Reading of Isaiah 58](#) // Urban Doxology

BODY

"Where do I even begin? What are some realistic on-ramps for engaging with people on the margins?"

- + Our church already has valuable **friendships** with friends on the margins - some who follow Jesus and some who don't, some who are housed and some who aren't, some who are comfortable with "church" and some who aren't. Get to know them! Chat with them at a gathering, invite them over for a meal or a shower, ask them about their journey, share about your own struggles, and expect God to humble you as you walk with them!
- + Engaging in **short-term ways** : Although longer-term relationships are ideal, don't be afraid to listen to how the Spirit might be inviting us to acknowledge people on the margins in one-time interactions. Our friends on the street consistently note that smiles and seemingly-small acknowledgements of people's existence go a long way in breaking down feelings and lived-realities of invisibility, worthlessness, and shame. We're all beautiful image-bearers of our Creator! Also, come prepared - what if we starting carrying a granola bar, a pair of socks, and a food gift card with us every day and expected to give them away? Might God be inviting us out of our mind & heart-sets of scarcity & self-protection and into trust of His immeasurably-more provision and faithfulness
- + **Discipleship** friendships : We're currently praying about how individuals in our church can partner with local organizations in order to be advocates for and friends with people on the margins. These relationships will look different from person to person, but will be based in friendship and discipleship. Stay tuned for more discussion & info about engaging in this way soon and ask God to show how He might be inviting you into these relationships.

Prayer:

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives, *We confess to you, Lord.*

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, *We confess to you, Lord.*

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves, *We confess to you, Lord.*

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work, *We confess to you, Lord.*

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us, *We confess to you, Lord.*

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, *Accept our repentance, Lord.*

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, *Accept our repentance, Lord.*

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, *Accept our repentance, Lord.*

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us; *Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.*

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation, That we may show forth your glory in the world. Amen.

from *Book of Common Prayer: Ash Wednesday*

"Authentic relationships with those in need have a way of correcting the we-will-rescue-you mindset and replacing it with mutual admiration and respect." - Robert Lupton