



Refocus

BREAKOUT NOTES:

Biblical Justice - Kenzie Van Essen

Introduction:

My job is to facilitate conversation around justice and the bible and provide opportunities for our church to engage in justice work.

Each life group has different dynamics, but we know that each life group has also had conversations around justice, what's justice like here at Southeast, and what do we do with it?

Biblical Foundations for Justice

Definition of biblical justice: *Biblical justice is partnering with God in seeing restoration and healing for all humanity while pursuing the manifestation of equal access to resources and opportunities as illustrated throughout scripture.*

Justice means finding the common thread. We can find the common value that each person can agree upon and move forward in love and generosity!

A justice mission means going to the root of a problem.

Here's the difference: charity vs justice – a life group volunteering once vs. surrounding an individual or family and doing life with them.

This is God's mission of justice throughout the bible. The bible is a story about God's mission to locate the source of brokenness in the world, to deal with it, and to set things right.

Group Questions

1. What are some ways you can create a safe environment to talk about different justice topics for your group?
2. If someone begins to talk about justice or a justice topic in a negative light, how can you find a common value and redirect the conversation back to being one that is engaging and comfortable for all? Feel free to give examples of this!
3. Politics almost always infiltrate our justice conversations, even when we want the conversation to focus on the bible. What are a few examples of how you can redirect conversation back to the bible and Jesus?
4. We talked a little bit about sexuality and gender. In light of that conversation, which phrase do you think speaks more to Jesus' heart for people? "Love the sinner, hate the sin." "Love people, hate your own sin."
5. We sometime will have folks who are looking for a life group and either they themselves or they have family members who are attracted to the same sex or have gender

dysphoria. In what ways is your group currently able to walk in grace and truth with these folks? (Celebrate this!)

6. We talked about humility. In your own words, describe how you lead with humility in your group. Do you feel like you have space to foster humility for yourself and your group? If so, how?