

GROUP WARM UP:

1. Over the last week, what's one way have I noticed God working in your life? Or in the lives of others? In your community? In the world?

DISCUSSION:

Sermon Big Idea: When we become a victim of an injustice, this can lead us to take genuine refuge in the God of justice.

- 2. Consider the dilemma between theory vs. reality and how we often see "the bad guys winning." Consider our society and culture today, which elevates certain values that counter the ways of God. In what areas does it feel like the ungodly are prospering? How do you reconcile this with what Scripture says about God judging evil?
- 3. The poet asks, "Why, O Lord, do you stand far away? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?" (10:1) Have you ever felt this sense of being abandoned by God? How did you respond? In these times, do you find it easy to open up and share with others how you are feeling?
- 4. Consider a time when you felt (or still feel) "hotly pursued" by the wicked (10:2)? When we are victimized, we are forced to make a choice: take justice into our own hands or surrender to God's rule. What's the difference between these options and what are some results that can flow from each choice?
- 5. The sermon mentioned that even the best human systems of justice are broken, just like the human heart. Read Jeremiah 17:9, Galatians 5:16-16, and Romans 7:15-25. The true danger for a victim is you can easily begin "to adopt the heart of the afflicter." How does this idea challenge you to become more aware of how the flesh wants to respond in the face of hurt, pain, anger, etc.? In these moments, how can relying on the Spirit help us NOT retaliate back?
- 6. Reflect on how Psalm 10 points to Jesus, the ultimate victim who became the victor. What does it mean that Jesus's life, from his betrayal to his crucifixion, demonstrates his total authority over injustice? Knowing that Christ has gone before you and experienced the full extent of being wrongly accused, betrayal, etc., what is one way you find comfort knowing he empathizes with whatever you experience? Read Hebrews 4:15.
- 7. The final application mentioned taking refuge by living out the example of Jesus. Meditate on 1 Peter 2:21-23. Jesus left us an example to "entrust" ourselves to him who "judges justly." Over the next week, make this application personal. Consider one area that you desire the Spirit to guide and help you live out Christ's example when you face a real or perceived wrong or injustice. Invite someone to pray for you in this area.