

These notes are designed to be used by small groups on Zoom, by members of a family or by a couple of friends on the telephone. They are based on our Sunday sermons and are designed to help us all think through the issues raised about “God in my Everything”. You will get the most out of them if you have heard the sermon first.

Sermon Date

Sunday 20th June Alan Hulme

Bible Passages

Isaiah 58

Theme & Introduction

What is Justice and what does Isaiah say about its importance to the people of God?
How should that affect our rules/rhythms of life?

Questions

1. Alan’s definition of Justice, when used in its normal biblical sense, was: **“when things are as they should be”**. He likened it to the kingdom of God. Using that definition, discuss the issues below.
What are the real-world problems and what would God’s justice look like?
[you may find it helpful to do a little research for facts and figures beforehand.]
 - Poverty and the UK – and especially in Rugby.
 - Global access to safe drinking water.
 - Global and local access to education.
 - Representation of the working class in UK churches.
2. Read Isaiah 58:1-5.
 - The prophet was speaking to the post-exilic community of Israel. What issues might he raise if he was speaking to us in the same way?
3. Read Isaiah 58:6-7.
 - What issues might the prophet challenge us with if he was speaking to us in the same way?
4. Read Isaiah 58:8-12.
 - What excites you most about this list of blessings?
 - What would a church where God was powerfully present look like?
5. Read v10. Alan’s translation was “*draw out your souls to the hungry/oppressed*”. He claimed this was about allowing God to put a passion for justice in our hearts.
 - What justice issues are you passionate about?
 - Share and discuss any areas you think that The Lord may be asking you to engage with.
 - Is engaging with justice issues part of your rule of life (all of us) or for you, is it also your primary ministry?