

## Peace with Justice for Youth Groups

The United Methodist Church is built upon two forms of holiness: personal and social. We can grow in personal holiness through a life of devotion and prayer. We can grow in social holiness by practicing compassion and justice. Social and personal holiness can never be separated from one another.

Have your youth group tell you what they think of when they hear the word "justice". Then read scriptures about justice.

Micah 6:8

Amos 5:15

Isaiah 42: 1-4

Luke 1: 46-55

What do these scriptures tell us about how God feels about justice?

How can we tell if we are acting justly? If we are in right relationship with God and others, including other people whom we cannot see or have never met.

Justice and compassion are related because together they challenge us to reach out and meet the immediate needs of others while asking the question what caused this to happen and work to change the root cause as well.

- 1.) Do a service project together as a group. Pick a project out as group. Explain that we do works of compassion and justice as a way to live out our faith in the world.
- 2.) Have your youth group search newspapers for examples of injustice. How can the work of Christians move this situation from being unjust to just?
- 3.) Have the students discuss how peace and justice go together. Look up 2 Cor 13:11b and discuss what it means to live in peace. Have the students talk about some of the things that distract us from living a life of peace and justice.