

SECTION
1.3

God Is Just



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 1: Candy Justice Simulation

What You'll Need: Bowl, candy, timer

PREP: Contact a leader or kid to help with the skit. Arrange for that person to stand and complain during the activity a few seconds after you start the timer.

Fill the bowl with candy.

STEP 1: Welcome the kids and hold up the bowl of candy. Tell them you will give a piece of candy to everybody who remains seated for the next 30 seconds.

STEP 2: Start the timer and remind the kids that they only get the candy if they remain seated. Shortly after you start the timer, the predetermined kid or leader should stand, complain, and demand the candy immediately. Explain to the class that the disruptor won't get a piece of candy. If others disobey the rule, don't give them candy either.

After 30 seconds, distribute candy to those who earned it. Then ask the following questions:

- Why did most of the class earn a piece of candy?
- Was it fair for me to not give (volunteer's name) candy? Why or why not?
- What makes something fair or unfair?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- Everyone has faced times when life is unfair. Things do not go as we planned, or we do not get what we think we need or deserve.
- We can never be just all the time. All humans are sinners. We are not perfect, and we cannot always make fair or just decisions because of sin.
- Only God is just. In today's lesson, you will see how God is always just to everyone. He even offers a way for us to be right with Him!

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that God is just.

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Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)
Option 2: A Story of Injustice
What You'll Need: Nothing

PREP: (Optional: Print two copies of the following short story and ask two leaders to act it out in front of the kids.)

STEP 1: Read the following short story. (Optional: have volunteers act it out in front of the kids.)

"Life isn't fair!" Hailey Jones exclaimed after bursting through the door of her house. She slammed her backpack down onto the table.

Hailey's mom went over to sit next to her daughter at the table. "Tough day at school?" she asked.

"The worst!" Hailey said. "I wish I could go to a different school. Maybe people are nicer there!"

"Tell me what happened," said Mrs. Jones.

"Mr. Hernandez was writing a math problem on the board when Dylan Sodaro threw a paper ball. It hit Mr. Hernandez in the back of the head."

"What did your teacher do?" Mrs. Jones asked.

"He turned around and demanded to know who hit him," answered Hailey. "One kid said Dylan did it, but Dylan wouldn't admit to it. Another kid said Isabella Evans did it. And Jacob Chen said I did it. Mr. Hernandez didn't know what to do. So he made Dylan, Isabella, and me sit on the bench when all the other kids got to play on the playground. It wasn't fair!"

"Oh, that's too bad, sweetie," said Hailey's mom. "Maybe I should talk to your teacher and tell him what happened."

"Yeah, and there's more!" Hailey said, taking off her purple tennis shoes. "In gym, our class played one of the other classes in basketball. We were losing by one point. There were only a few seconds left to play. Logan Lewis passed

the ball to me, and I made a basket just before the buzzer sounded to end the game. We should have won by a point! But one of the two referees thought I shot the ball after the buzzer sounded. They talked it over and decided my basket didn't count, and we lost the game! It wasn't fair."

STEP 2: Ask the following questions:

- Do you think it was fair for Hailey to have to sit on the bench during playground time? Why or why not?
- Was it fair that her team lost the game? Why or why not?
- What makes something fair or unfair?

Step 3: Share these key concepts:

- Sometimes things like this happen to us too. When we are treated unfairly, we might feel upset like Hailey. We might be angry or try to get what we deserve.
- Everyone has faced times when life is unfair. Things do not go as we planned, or we do not get what we think we need or deserve.
- We can never be just all the time. All humans are sinners. We are not perfect, and we cannot always make fair or just decisions because of sin.
- Only God is just. In today's lesson, you will see how God is always just to everyone. He even offers a way for us to be right with Him!

Step 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that God is just.

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Main Lesson (10 Minutes)
Option 1: Draw a Picture of Justice

What You'll Need: Bible, scissors, easel, whiteboard or poster board and markers, red cross, tape (*Leader's Note: Larger clubs may divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.*)

PREP: Bookmark a Bible to Romans 3:23. Set up the easel and whiteboard or poster board in the front of the room. In the upper left-hand corner of the board, draw a few clouds and write the word "heaven" below them. In the center of the board, draw two stick figures, and write underneath "you and me." In the bottom right-hand corner, write the word "hell" with flames around it.

STEP 1: Read or recite this week's memory verse, Deuteronomy 32:4. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- God is a rock. We can trust that He is who He says He is. He will never change.
- All that God does is perfect.
- God is just; He is always fair and gives people the punishment or reward they deserve.

STEP 2: Draw the kids' attention to the board.

Share these key concepts:

- God is Just. He is always fair to everyone; He does not pick favorites, and He treats and loves everyone the same (Job 34:19, Romans 2:11, Deuteronomy 32:4).
- The Bible says that those who are sinless deserve heaven and those who are sinners deserve hell (Matthew 19:16-26, Romans 6:23).

STEP 3: Write the word "sinners" over the two stick figures. Ask a volunteer to read Romans 3:23.

Share these key concepts:

- We are all sinners because we make wrong choices.
- Because God is just, we deserve hell as punishment for sin.

STEP 4: Tape the red cross over the two stick figures.

Share these key concepts.

- God sent Jesus to take the punishment for sin.
- Jesus is the only person who is sinless and the only one who could take our punishment of death that WE deserved because of our sin.
- When you put your trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior, your sins are forgiven, and God sees you as if you have never sinned. That means that one day you, too, can live forever in heaven!

STEP 5: Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

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Main Lesson (10 Minutes)
Option 2:

What You'll Need: Trash can, balloon, masking tape (*Leader's Note: Larger clubs may divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.*)

PREP: Ask a leader to volunteer to take the "punishment" of a kid at your signal.

Set a trash can on one end of the classroom. Blow up the balloon and place nearby. Place a piece of masking tape on the ground on the other side of the room. (Make sure it is impossible to toss the balloon into the basket from the marked line.)

STEP 1: Read or recite this week's memory verse, Deuteronomy 32:4. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- God is a rock. We can trust that He is who He says He is. He will never change.
- All that God does is perfect.
- God is just; He is always fair and gives people the punishment or reward they deserve.

STEP 2: Share these key concepts:

- God is just. He is always fair to everyone; He does not pick favorites, and He treats and loves everyone the same (Job 34:19, Romans 2:11, Deuteronomy 32:4).
- God will give each person what he or she deserves.
- The Bible says that those who are sinless deserve heaven and those who are sinners deserve hell (Matthew 19:16-26, Romans 6:23).

STEP 3: Call on a volunteer to stand behind the masking tape line. Explain to that kid and the rest of the kids that the volunteer has only one chance to make a basket using the balloon. If he or she misses, the punishment is ten push-ups.

Give the kid the balloon and encourage him or her to take the shot. When the kid misses the shot, share these key concepts:

- All of us do wrong things. God calls the wrong things we do sin (Romans 3:23).
- Just like it would be impossible to make a basket with the balloon, it is impossible for us to deserve heaven because of our sin.

STEP 4: Remind the kid who missed the shot of the punishment. Give the signal so that the leader knows to volunteer and take the punishment of the required push-ups. Declare to the kids that the punishment was paid. Ask the volunteer to sit.

Share these key concepts:

- God sent Jesus to take the punishment for sin.
- Jesus is the only person who is sinless and the only one who could take our punishment of death that WE deserved because of our sin.
- When you put your trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior, your sins are forgiven, and God sees you as if you have never sinned. That means that one day you, too, can live forever in heaven!

STEP 5: Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.