**[ 4 ] WEEK FOUR - LEA Value: justice**

**KEY TEXT**: Micah 6:8 What the Lord Requires.

(integrity, honesty, truthfulness, honour, veracity, uprightness, fairness ...)

Through genuine concern, and the developing of a conscience for the rights and wellbeing of everyone in the human family, justice focuses as much on understanding and responding to the reasons for suffering and injustices as it does on responding to unjust conditions. It requires integrity between beliefs, words, and actions. It may necessitate taking a stand and acting with courage.

Other verses to look up:- Isaiah 26:7-8, Romans 12, Matthew 5:7, Ephesians 2:1-5, Jeremiah 23:5-6, Job 8:3-7...

**BIBLE TEXT:**

*He has showed you, O man, what is good.*

*And what does the LORD require of you?*

*To act justly and to love mercy*

*and to walk humbly with your God.*

**TEACHING FOR TEACHERS:**The Micah reading has been a famous justice text for Justice groups around the world. It tells us just what God wants of us: [1] to love kindness – from the heart – as a passion. [2] It tells us to do justice – not simply think it or plan for it. [3] Then finally it tells us to make such a life and “everyday” kind of thing that doesn’t need to be make a “Noise” about – but rather to humbly do these things as we walk alongside of God, trusting in God’s care.

**DISCUSS**

Young people across Australia have a good record in volunteering and they have a keen sense of injustice done to others around the world. Young people have energy and passion to help change the inequities of the world, and often simply need mature direction to achieve wonderful outcomes for those less fortunate in our society. Organised charity activities such as the 40 Hour Family; Sponsor a Child or Make Poverty History have a long standing tradition of including the energies of young people. What can a Pastoral Care Group do, to enable young people to find creative avenues to work for social justice and equality? How can a teacher help young people to learn that God sides with the poor and needy. During the year, there are many programmes that allow young people to give gifts that "keep on giving" such as buying a goat or water pump for a village, and "giving" mum or dad the "donation card" as a gift for a birthday or mothers or fathers' day. In the 21st century, we have an abundance of resources to help a group discuss social inequities and social injustices in our world. It is a real challenge to explore these problems when they manifest themselves close to home, even in our own school community.

**ACTIVITIES**

\* Make a list of places in the world, where Inequality is common place.

\* What issues of injustice do students feel are problems in our school community?

\* Which student leaders are the best at working to treat everyone equally?

\* Who can we "welcome" in God's name? In the Bible, offering hospitality is a call of God on our lives. God's people were to remember that they were once strangers and refugees who were taken in by God (Deuteronomy 10:19).

\* How would stranger so be welcomed in our school; local community, country?

\* Consider sponsoring a child as a Care Group.

\* Consider how your Care Group can all get involved in a specific charity activity that works for social justice locally or overseas. Consider researching, brain-storming then voting on a preferred activity to be involved in.

\* Discuss issues of social justice as they come up: from watching news programs, TV programs, newspaper stories, or just what happens in the lives of your students. Discuss how we can respond to make the world a better place.

\* Keep a "CARE GROUP" Chart that records places in the world, where changes are underway, bringing justice and peace.

BIBLE AND QUOTES to talk about ....

"If you want to make beautiful music, you must play the black and the white notes together." -Richard Milhous Nixon

"Choose your friends by their character and your socks by their colour. Choosing your socks by their character makes no sense, and choosing your friends by their colour is unthinkable."-Anon.

This week we could pray for:

World peace; eyes that see the needs of the poor;

hearts that feel for those who suffer injustice;

passion to work for change in the world;

honesty with ourselves where we are part of the problem rather than working for solutions.

An example of a prayer for this week:

God, open my eyes to see those in need. Help me to give as you have given to me.

Forgive me for times when I have looked away from those who need my care.

Thank you for the many blessings that you have given to me every day.

AMEN