

Topic: Proper Humanity – Just

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

Elementary:

Verse: “Thus says Jehovah, Preserve justice and do righteousness” (Isaiah 56:1a).

Focus: To be just is to do the right thing, involving being accurate and honest.

Practical Application: Suppose two children are fighting over a single muffin. How much should each child get? You are the just judge to decide on the solution. A just solution would be to have one sibling cut the muffin in half, and the other sibling gets to choose his/her half first.

Intermediate:

Verse: “He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the just and the unjust” (Matthew 5:45b).

Focus: To be just is to be guided by truth, reason, and fact. It is to be upright, equitable, and impartial. We should not show favoritism when trying to make impartial decisions.

Practical Application: When you are dividing a cookie between two friends, would you give the bigger piece to the one you like better? Also ask the children how it feels when their teachers play favorites. Consider also playing a game with the children: they have to sit on the chair or the ground and the first one to stand up wins the round. They can only stand when the judge says, “Stand.” Have the children take turns being judges. After the game, ask them if they can impartially decide between their friends.

Advanced:

Verse: “...that [Abraham] will command his children and his household after him to keep the way of Jehovah by doing righteousness and justice” (Genesis 18:19b).

Focus: Being just is not merely a reaction to outward circumstances; it is a way of living. This means that we are not just because others are fair towards us and we are not unjust because others are not fair towards us. We are just because that is the way of Jehovah.

Practical Application: You and your friend were both ill, and you both asked for an extension on the deadline for a project. Your friend received the extension, but you did not. In being just, you should still obey your teacher and turn in the project on time, because it is right to obey your teacher. The just action is to respect and listen to your teacher. The teacher’s unjust treatment of you does not mean you have a right to be unjust in your disrespecting the teacher. Even if no one around us is just, we should still be just. Consider giving an example of a judge needing to be just in deciding a case even if the accused is his enemy.