

## Bringing Justice

A Life Group began in a community nicknamed 'Crime Zone'. For a year the Life Group had prayed specifically for the people known to cause trouble in the area. One day they invited these people along to their group. Amazed at the invitation, the trouble causers came along and over time they built friendships with the Life Group members. This led them to Jesus and as they gave their lives to him, he began to change their lives! As a result, crime levels have dropped and the reputation of their village has changed for good!

This is an example of Life Group members standing for justice and bringing change in their communities. This is the very heart of following Jesus. As Christians we cannot simply ignore the issues in our areas and the world around us. Our God is a God who cares deeply about justice. He wants us, his people to stand for justice and help heal this broken world.

The world is full of injustice. We live in a world of violence, war, famine and extreme poverty. People face persecution for their race, faith and beliefs. Every day people are exploited, stolen from and sold into slavery. People are constantly suffering the catastrophic effects of natural disasters, disease and climate change. The world is not the way that God wants it to be.

God has always intended us, his children, to be part of the answer. Jesus stood up for the lonely, the oppressed and the marginalised. We should do likewise. In Matthew 25:40 Jesus says, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

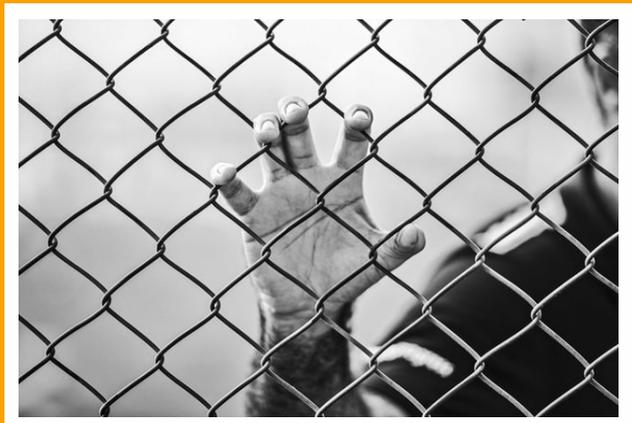
Think about the people in the area around you? What would your community look like if you were to see these people in the same way you see Jesus? Would you be treating them in the same way? Would you tolerate the deep injustices in your community? Would you sit back and watch as people are taken advantage of, discriminated against and stolen from? This is a very real challenge from Jesus. If we claim to love Jesus, then we must show that very same love to the lonely, oppressed and the marginalised. Part of this love is standing up against the injustices that they face. We all know the problems in our areas and just like the Life Group in the story, you can be a part of God's answer to these problems.

### Put it into Action!

What would you say are the biggest injustices in your community, it may be someone who gets taken advantage of, or a group of people who are unfairly treated. In the next week, meet together with other Christians and pray for these situations that God has put on your heart. Spend some time thinking about the steps you need to take in order to do something about it.

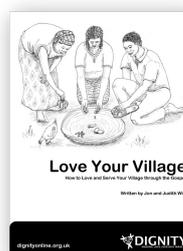
### Pray that:

- 1) God will show you situations where there is injustice in your community.
- 2) The Holy Spirit will give you courage and wisdom to act in a way that will bring justice.



"Oh glory to God. Today we launched a Life Group at one of our Kenya prisons with prisoners who we shall equip to lead Life Groups in their own communities when they leave prison. I have started the Life Group with eight prisoners"

**- Beatrice, Nairobi, Kenya**



This lesson is taken from Words are not enough" taken from "Love Your Village".

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