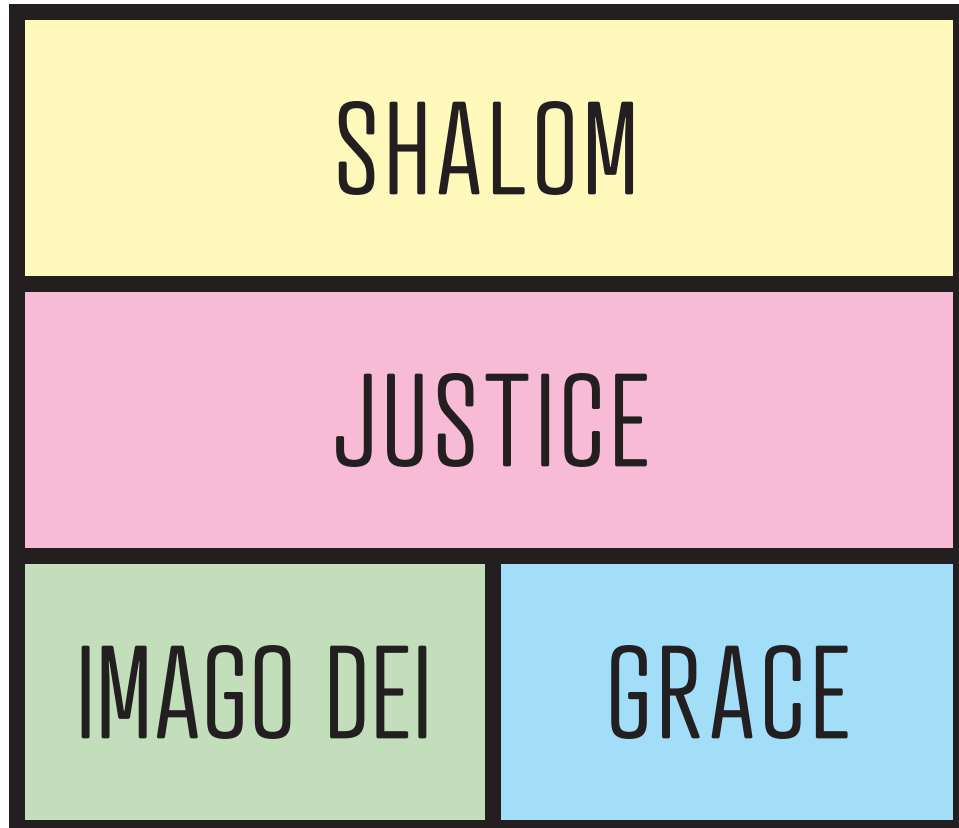


# MOSAIC COLLECTIVE

Radical Justice Every Day



## MISSION ADVENTURES

North American Theme for 2024

Hi There!

Thank you for partnering with us to mobilize young people into the harvest fields. We are passionate about equipping young people to live their faith in a deeper way. We have put together to provide you with a jump start for your preparations. However, it is not meant to lock in your teaching to these ideas. Our theme for 2024 is...



**Mosaic Collective | Radical Justice Every Day:** A mosaic is an analogy of how Christians are called to live. It is little daily decisions to love others and do justice that compose a life well lived for Jesus.

**The Story of The Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37:** This parable highlights a man who chooses to engage in an act of sacrificial justice for another. He is meeting more than just a physical need, but going above and beyond to meet the full need of the man in front of him. This takes sacrifice of his safety, time, money, and reputation.

**Some Helpful Points for the Week:** Jesus loves everyone, but he pays special attention to the vulnerable and he calls us to do the same.

- Encourage students to ask: Who am I in the story?
- Encourage conversations thinking outside the box about how to do justice.
- Our theme was shaped greatly by Timothy Keller’s book *Generous Justice*. This will be a great resource for your week, and it is an excellent read.

**Helpful Illustration:** The sessions titles are based on the diagram below. True justice is built on the foundation of a correct understanding of the Imago Dei (or Image of God) and the fact that *all* humans are created in this image. An understanding of this image combined with the grace of God in and through our lives allow us to live out justice. When justice is lived out on the foundation of Imago Dei and Grace, then it allows shalom to happen. Shalom is translated peace, but really means the restoration of something or someone. We are called to enact shalom in the world around us.

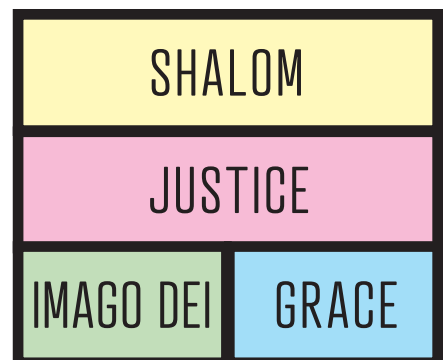
**Poverty and Justice Can Be Tricky:** Justice can be a tricky topic, especially when it comes to addressing poverty. Conservatives tend think the causes of poverty are poor self-control, lack of discipline and the breakdown of the family. Liberals tend to say poverty is caused by social forces beyond the control of the poor. Keller in *Generous Justice* reminds us that the Bible identifies a matrix of complex causes, and that to bring justice, we all need to participate with grace. (See pp. 33-34 of *Generous Justice*).

**Fun Fact:**One of the largest Mosaics ever found is in Antioch!

**Finally:** Again, we’re grateful for your participation with us as we create an experience for the students in our Mission Adventures outreaches. We encourage you to get your hands on a copy of Keller’s book — it helped us shape the theme, and we know it will be useful to you.

Grace, Justice, & Shalom,

The Mission Adventures Theme Team



# MOSAIC CO.

## RADICAL JUSTICE EVERY DAY

### The Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37

Justice is a hot topic, but what is justice really? Some say justice is providing people with an opportunity to fight for themselves. Others say justice is doing the fighting for them. How we view justice reflects what we value. Living in a post-Christian culture we see these values being lived out in very different ways. As believers, look to Jesus to define justice, and we look to him as our example of what doing justice looks like. When we define justice ourselves, we can easily become apathetic to the needs of those around us, or we can pick and choose who and how to do justice based on what is most convenient to us. Tim Keller presents the argument that doing justice is not charity, and it is not optional. “To walk with God we must do justice out of merciful love” (Generous Justice).

We don't need to convince Gen Z that justice matters — it's already one of their greatest values. God has marked this generation with his deep concern for justice. Yet students still need an understanding of why they are wired with these concerns, and what it can mean for them on a daily basis. Jesus too, cared about justice, but he defined it differently than our current culture. A quick look at the different words used in scripture to define justice give us a great foundation.

*Mishpat* is the Hebrew word for justice. It means to give people what they deserve. (Protection, punishment, food, healthcare, etc.) *Mishpat* is an action. It is something we do.

*Tzadeqah* is a Hebrew word translated equally between “being just” and “being righteous.” With righteousness being defined as “being in right relationship with God, and, by extension, being committed to pursuing right relationship with others.” *Tzadeqah* is not just tolerating people. It is not blatantly doing wrong to another person. Instead, right relationship means pursuing the betterment of another person. It is truly loving and giving of yourself to help see the other person live a whole life. In biblical terms, righteousness is social.

*Chesedh* is the Hebrew word for mercy and it emphasizes your heart's motives. It is God's unconditional grace and compassion. When we have an understanding of God's heart for us, we are then able to do justice from a pure heart, it is the overflow of love and grace that God has given us.

These words help us understand what biblical justice actually is (*Mishpat*), where it comes from (*Tzadeqah*), and the heart behind doing it (*Chesedh*). When we are in right relationship with God, and pursuing that with those around us, self-sacrificing for the good of someone else becomes a part of every day living for every believer, not just the “really good Christians”.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan we see one man doing justice to another. Jesus says we must model our lives after this man who showed mercy to his enemy. He says even the people we hate the most, deserve love and justice. Simple, radical acts of justice daily are the mark of a true believer. When we choose to live a life of self-sacrifice for the betterment of others, out of the generous grace that has already been given to us by the Great Samaritan (Jesus), we will see the world around us transformed. This is an individual and community call for us to bring *Shalom* to all areas of the earth. It is these acts that form a mosaic masterpiece of a life lived with the Lord. No single piece in a mosaic is overly compelling. But with an intentional combination of pieces we make something awe-inspiring; God has chosen us to create *shalom*!

Join us this summer as we discover what it means to do radical justice with the Lord.

# IMAGO DEI

## Session 2

The Image of God. We are all created in the image of God, but who is this God? What does He value? How does He act? And what does this mean for us? Colossians 1:15 says Jesus is the image of the invisible God. In John 14:9 Jesus says “if you have seen me, you have seen the father”. Jesus shows us who God is. Jesus shows us what it’s like to be fully human. Jesus shows us who we are capable of being. As we get to know Jesus, we can begin to understand why we are called to live a certain way, and how we can be capable of this calling.

In Genesis 1:27 the Bible says “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” “Human beings are not accidents, but creations” (Generous Justice) We are pieces of great workmanship that innately carry some of God’s own characteristics.

- We are relational
- We are personal
- We are creative
- We are eternal

We all have infinite, inherent value because we are all created in the image of an infinitely valuable God. We are worthy and we are loved, and there’s nothing we can do to earn this or lose this. “The bible teaches that the sacredness of God has in some ways been imparted to humanity, so that every human life is sacred and every human being has dignity.” (Generous Justice) Every person matters deeply to God. This includes the ones you don’t know, the ones you do know and can’t stand, the ones you write off as invaluable, and the ones that disagree with your deepest values and opinions. This also includes yourself.

As we gain a truer understanding of our identity in Christ we are compelled to move towards one another in love and justice. This is because we understand the worth of every human being. 2 Corinthians 3:18 tells us that as we behold, or look at and get to know God, we will be transformed into the same image, from one degree of glory to another. The more we look to and imitate Jesus as our example of doing justice and kingdom living, the deeper our understanding of what it really means to be made in his image. As we become more like God, loving our enemies, caring for the vulnerable, and seeking shalom in all areas of life can become our automatic response.

### Scripture References

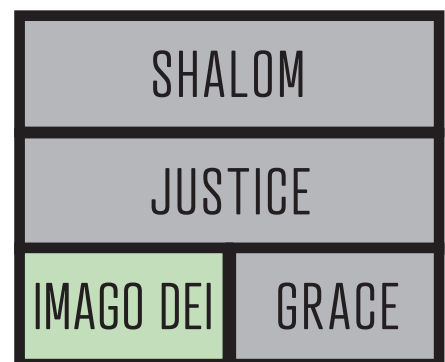
Ephesians 4:17-24  
 Ephesians 5:1-2  
 2 Corinthians 3:18  
 Hebrews 1:3  
 Psalm 139:13-14

### Generous Justice

Pg. 62-75  
 Pg. 82-92

### Bible Project

*Image of God*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YbipxLDtY8c&t=63s>



# GRACE

## Session 3

As we continue laying the foundation towards Shalom it's important to remember the main ingredient is Grace. While mercy is not getting what you deserve, grace is getting what you do not deserve. Without understanding the grace we have received, our actions will not be done out of grace, and our acts of justice or service can become selfish, or given only to those we identify with. We see an overarching demonstration of the Lord's grace shown all throughout the old testament, and continued into the new testament. This grace culminated in the sacrifice of Jesus. He is the perfect example of grace. He was beaten, stripped, spat on, rejected, and in that moment he was the lowest of the low. He gave up every right he was entitled to, so we could inherit eternal life. We can't earn what Jesus gives us freely, this is grace. He knew many would reject this gift. He knew we would keep sinning. He knew we would continue to turn from him, yet he still gave it. This is Grace.

It is said that the path to the cross should be well worn. We all have junk and hinderances that keep us from living the way we were designed to. At the foot of the cross we not only receive forgiveness, and hope for the future, but we also receive the ability to truly live in the present. We receive peace beyond understanding, we receive love that overflows to others, we receive a generous spirit, we receive an identity that is not rooted in the cares of this world, but in the riches of the kingdom. "It is the generosity of God, the freeness of his salvation, that lays the foundation for the society of justice for all." (Generous Justice) God invites us to engage in the brokenness of the world. And that starts with us realizing the brokenness within ourselves. Allowing God to work in and through us, then spreads to our families, our friends, our communities, and beyond. Grace enables us to love our neighbor. It empowers us to love the unlovely. Without it, we may be able to act loving, but real, authentic, true transformative love happens by grace. Grace is something we all rely on and the only place to get it is at the foot of the cross.

We want the students to know this incredible gift of grace the Lord has given. Jesus put on display what it means to truly love your neighbor as yourself (Luke 10:27). Jesus for the sake of us became destitute, He gave it all. If we love the way he has shown us (1 John 4:19) then our grace towards others should resemble the grace He has poured out for us. Freely given to our neighbor as shown in the story of the good samaritan.

### Scripture References

Prodigal son  
 Luke 6:27-31  
 Isaiah 53  
 Ephesians 2:8-10  
 James 4:6  
 Roman 5:20-21  
 2 Timothy 1:9-10

### Generous Justice References

Pg. 39-40  
 Pg. 75-77  
 Pg. 92-108  
 Pg. 138-143

### Bible Project

Grace -  
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/character-of-god-grace/>



# JUSTICE

## Session 4

Justice (*mishpat*) reflects God’s character, and God cares for the vulnerable. It’s true that justice doesn’t discriminate between race, sex, class, education level, etc. It sees everyone with value. And there are places in scripture where God calls for justice for members of the well-off classes, but the call to render justice to the poor outnumber such passages by a hundred to one. In fact, the biblical writers introduce God as “a father to the fatherless, a defender of widows” (Psalms 68:4-5). This is incredibly important to notice, because how you introduce someone reflects what they do and who they are. You can introduce someone as your mom, or your teacher, as a doctor, or a musician, and you automatically know how that person spends a good deal of their time. So when God is introduced this way we must pay attention. In the same vane, Jesus declared the same mission for himself at the start of his ministry:

“He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, ‘Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’ “ (Luke 4:18-21)

As followers of Jesus, created in the image of God, we too have this same mission. Doing justice is not optional. Doing justice is not easy. It will require self-sacrifice. Doing justice is not a one time deal, or even a once a year thing. It is a daily calling. It’s learning to see through God’s eyes. We are no longer the center of our days. Our priorities may not need to be the priorities. Our time may need to also be someone else’s time. Our resources are ultimately a gift from God, and so they will need to be held with open hands. Doing justice is truly radical.

The Good Samaritan could have made many different decisions. He could have walked past. He could have just tossed a bit of money at the man. He could have said I’ll pray you get the help you need, and most would have said any of those options would have been understandable. But the good Samaritan didn’t make his decisions based on what was easiest, or what others would have done. He walked out biblical justice by self-sacrificing until the whole need of the man was met. This is radical justice, and this is how Jesus portrays loving your neighbor as yourself; courageously making other people’s problems your problem. We are called to a radical life. This will look different for each one of us. How is God calling you to do justice?

### Scripture References

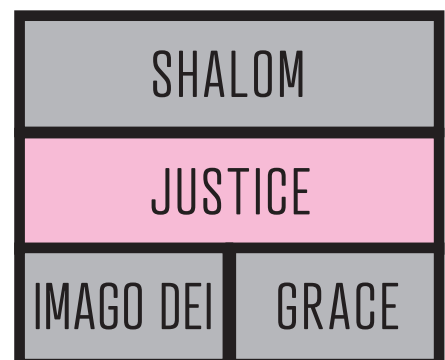
Micah 6:6-8 Amos 5:14-24  
 Psalm 33:4-5  
 Jeremiah 22:3  
 Proverbs 31:8-9  
 Job 29:14  
 Psalm 146:5-9  
 Lev. 24:22  
 Matthew 25:31-46

### Generous Justice References

Pg. 3-10  
 Pg. 43-54  
 Pg. 109-147  
 Chapter 6 & 7

### Bible Project

*Justice*  
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/justice/>



# SHALOM

## Session 5

What is Shalom? Peace is a word we are all familiar with. It is the absence of conflict. And we see this word all throughout scripture. The problem is that the original words in scripture (*shalom* or *eirene*) mean something much more complex. Shalom can point to the absence of conflict, but it more often points to the restoration of something broken. Shalom is bringing wholeness, and completeness. For example, to bring shalom to the kid at school that doesn't have any friends or is made fun of, you wouldn't just not make fun of him. You would begin to sit with him at lunch. You would invite him over to your house to hangout. You would lovingly invest in him and develop a relationship. Where friendship and relationship was once missing, you have brought shalom. For society or even families to have shalom there must be more than just the absence of conflict. They would need to come together and build relationship. They would seek forgiveness and reconciliation for any hurt. They would pool their resources, and work together for the betterment of all people involved, and the land that they live in. Relationships between people, between God and man, and between people and creation would be made whole!

The Biblical concept of justice is bringing shalom to a situation. Many have tried to restore the earth through good humanitarian efforts, but this is not enough. Burnout, and unhealthy practices can result in trying to do justice out of our own means. Only a life rooted in Jesus can have true fullness, because he is the giver and sustainer of life. He is our source of grace, he is our source of wisdom, he is our source of love. He is the prince of Shalom (Is 9:6-7) and one day will perfectly restore all of creation to its original design. But he has called his followers to begin this process. We are not to just wait around for Jesus to return, but we are called to enact God's peace (*shalom*) on earth.

Just like the Good Samaritan was bringing shalom to the man on the road, we need to have open eyes, and hearts to the situations around us. Where is God leading us to bring shalom? Who in our families or in our communities are in need of restoration? How can we love our neighbor as ourself? As we have been discussing all week, this does not mean meeting an occasional small need. It means a life of self-sacrifice in order to bring full restoration back to God's creation. A pastor once said, "the world doesn't get the Holy Spirit, the world gets the church." And what a beautiful gift to the world when the church is doing justice and loving their neighbors the way Jesus did. When we all live a radical life of justice we are creating a beautiful mosaic of shalom for the world.

- In the beginning of creation the garden of Eden operated in shalom.
- Humans broke shalom when we decided to operate under our own rule and not God's.
- Jesus created a way to full restoration through the cross.
- Jesus calls us to bring shalom to all areas of earth.

### Scripture References

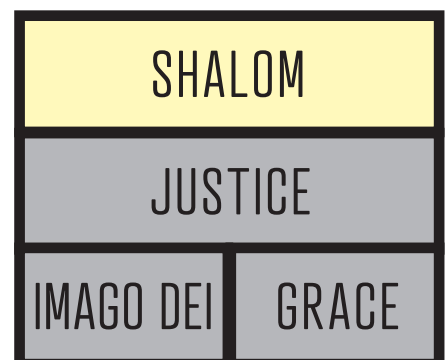
Isaiah 9:6-7  
 Isaiah 11:3-9  
 Jeremiah 29:7  
 Romans 5:1  
 Ephesians 2:14-15  
 Colossians 1:19-20  
 Hebrews 12:14

### Generous Justice References

Pg. 54-61  
 Chapter 8

### Bible Project

*Shalom*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLYORLZOaZE>



# GENERATION Z

Their Characteristics, The Questions They're Asking,  
and What We Love about Them

## GEN Z CHARACTERISTICS

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Thank you for joining us as we raise up the next generation of Christ followers. Our goal with Mission Adventures is to first build the faith and confidence of the participants and then send them out to build the kingdom. These notes are designed to help you connect with and understand Generation Z better. Gen Z includes all people born between 1997 and 2012. Each generation has different ways of communicating, but this is even more true of Gen Z for reasons that we will outline here:

- **Digital Natives:** Generation Z is what sociologists refer to as “Digital Natives.” Their first language is technology. They have never not lived with the presence of technology and smart devices.
- **Post Christian Worldview:** Gen Z grew up in a post christian culture. This means that God is more of an idea not a religion or a relationship
- **Fear/Power vs Guilt/Innocent Culture:** Previous American generations have identified with the idea of I am guilty and Jesus makes me innocent (Guilt/ innocent). However, Gen Z identifies more with the idea that the world is full of things to fear, but in the power of Jesus I have nothing to fear (Fear/ power). For more information on these cultural views and how to minister to them we recommend the book: *The 3D Gospel: Ministry in Guilt, Shame, and Fear Cultures*.
- **High Pressure World:** Due to the access of technology Gen Z has higher performance standards than any other generation. Through social media they witness people all over the world excelling in many areas and they feel like they don't measure up.
- **First Global Generation:** They are connected around the globe. This is the first generation in history where trends in American culture are the same globally.
- **High Value on Creation:** This generation cares about the earth and its health. They want to steward the resources we have.
- **High Value on Social Justice:** Gen Z wants equality for people. They are passionate about fighting for the rights of others.
- **Fear Of Missing Out (FOMO):** The access to constant communication gives Gen Z a fear that they might be missing something better. This makes commitment difficult. When connecting with Gen Z it is important to leave your phone behind. This speaks to them that you care about connecting with them more than the rest of the world.
- **Real Time Value Making:** This means they create their values in the moment. This is associated with cancel culture. Their truth is not objective and changes based on what is trending. When something is canceled it becomes “bad” in that moment, regardless of previous values they may have held.



## THE QUESTIONS THEY'RE ASKING

When looking at the questions it is important to make note of a few of them. Question 1, for example, is not rooted in a biblical value. Safety is not something taught in the Bible. However, if Gen Z perceives something as unsafe or uncomfortable they label it “bad” and run in the opposite direction. Question 3 is often used as a weapon against God. “If God doesn’t care about that person then I don’t care about God.” This is why emphasizing the innate value of each person is valuable to Gen Z. Question 5 highlights Gen Z’s value on freedom. Whatever they perceive as more free is more true.

Please take time to read over these notes and pray for Gen Z. More than ever this generation needs to hear people speak life over them. When asked what older generations think of them Gen Z responds: lazy, anxious, weak, fragile, worried, entitled, overemotional, and incapable. We believe that God has created this generation with great purpose and wants to use them for great impact in his kingdom. We hope these notes will help you understand Gen Z better and champion them in the way God desires. Below we have listed the positive attributes we see in Gen Z. Though they have many obstacles to overcome, we believe they have a lot to impart to the world.

Questions	Values
Am I safe? Is it safe?	Safety
Will you accept me?	Acceptance, Tolerance, Inclusion
Do all people matter?	Social Justice
Can I trust you?	Authenticity
What is truth?	Truth Based on Freedom
What is my worth? Am I enough?	Accomplishments and Competition

### WHAT WE LOVE ABOUT GEN Z

- Value relationships
- Funny
- Fearless
- Zealous
- Speak their minds
- Globally aware
- Creative
- Tech savvy
- Desire Authenticity
- Bold
- Desire purpose
- Not afraid of questioning
- They go deep
- They are disciplers
- Future foundation of the church
- Servant hearted
- Entrepreneurial
- Inclusive