



# 1 Recognize Injustice

## WAYS TO PRACTICE AT HOME

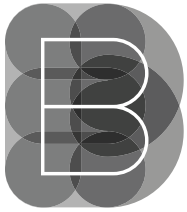
To do justice we need to recognize the injustice that surrounds us in the world, as well as our participation in it. While it is not our intention to harm others, injustice is found in systems that create advantages, often for those who are already privileged, and keep others in places of oppression and harm. When we see and hear hurtful actions and realize we may be involved in them, knowingly and unknowingly, work can be done to correct them.

- Create a chart of injustices and changes. Fold a sheet of paper in half and title one side “Things that Don’t Seem Right” and the other side “Making Changes.” As you pay attention to what happens around you during the week, put a frown ☹ when you see or hear injustice or unfairness happening. On the other side, draw a happy face 😊 for each time someone helps change things to make the situation better.
- Listen to “Free to Be . . . You and Me—Sara Bareilles” ([bit.ly /FMFreeToBe](https://bit.ly/FMFreeToBe), 3:54), a song about possibilities for fairness for all. The song and images speak to the potential for every child. What pictures would you want to add to this video?
- On a sheet of paper, trace both of your hands. In one hand, write or draw a picture of an injustice or unfairness you see or hear. In the other hand, write or draw a way you might try to make a change to the situation in the first hand. Talk together about ways to make changes.

Dear God, help me pay attention to situations that are unjust or unfair and find ways to change them for the better. Amen.

In each pair of images, color the picture that shows justice or fairness. Think of ways to help in the situations that are unjust or unfair.





## BIBLE STORY

Based on John 8:2-11

Long ago when Jesus lived and told people about God's love, he was teaching at the temple. Many were there to hear him. A group of religious leaders brought a woman to Jesus and made her stand in front of everyone. The leaders said that she had made mistakes, acted badly, and needed to be punished. They wanted to see if Jesus would obey or break the laws. If he followed the laws, the woman would have stones thrown at her, hurting her, and even killing her. If he didn't follow the laws, the religious leaders would be able to charge Jesus with breaking the laws.

Without saying a word, Jesus bent down and wrote in the dirt with his finger. The leaders kept asking what should be done, and Jesus kept writing. Then he stood up and said, "Whoever has not made any mistakes or acted badly in their life can be the first to punish her."

Everyone around, including the religious leaders, stopped and had to think.

Of course they had made mistakes in their lives.

Of course they had acted badly.

Of course.

One by one, everyone turned and walked away. Jesus and the woman were the only ones left. Jesus said to her, "Where are all those who wanted to punish you? Is anyone left?"

The woman looked around her and said, "There's no one here but you."

Jesus told the woman, "I do not judge you. Go and try to do better."

