

WHAT WE BELIEVE

WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT GOD AND JESUS DURING THIS STUDY?

- The beautiful ways God shows God's love and how much it really matters to trust in Him.
- Jesus was here to teach us about God's kingdom; to teach how to help and love.
- If you help others, you're helping Jesus. Jesus likes things to be equal.
- We need to always treat others like they are God.
- Jesus knew the true meaning of justice and he fully embodied that. To be a Christian is to be a follower of Jesus and that means striving for justice just as Jesus always did.
- God's intent is to take care of God's people. We are one, under God. Jesus paid no attention to the wealth and popular. Jesus' attention was on those who needed his help.
- God is compassionate and calls us to sacrifice our time and resources to help those who don't have the same opportunities as us.
- God loves messy people. And God's church consists of people from all walks of life that are unique and face different challenges.
- God looks out for the oppressed.

AS CHRISTIANS, WE BELIEVE JESUS CALLS US TO BE ENGAGED IN THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD IN WAYS THAT...

- Will change it.
- Support the people in our community and make laws/policies that do not discriminate.
- Address the lack of resources for people.
- Uplift and empower others and show his love.
- Benefit the oppressed people in our society.

NOW WHAT?

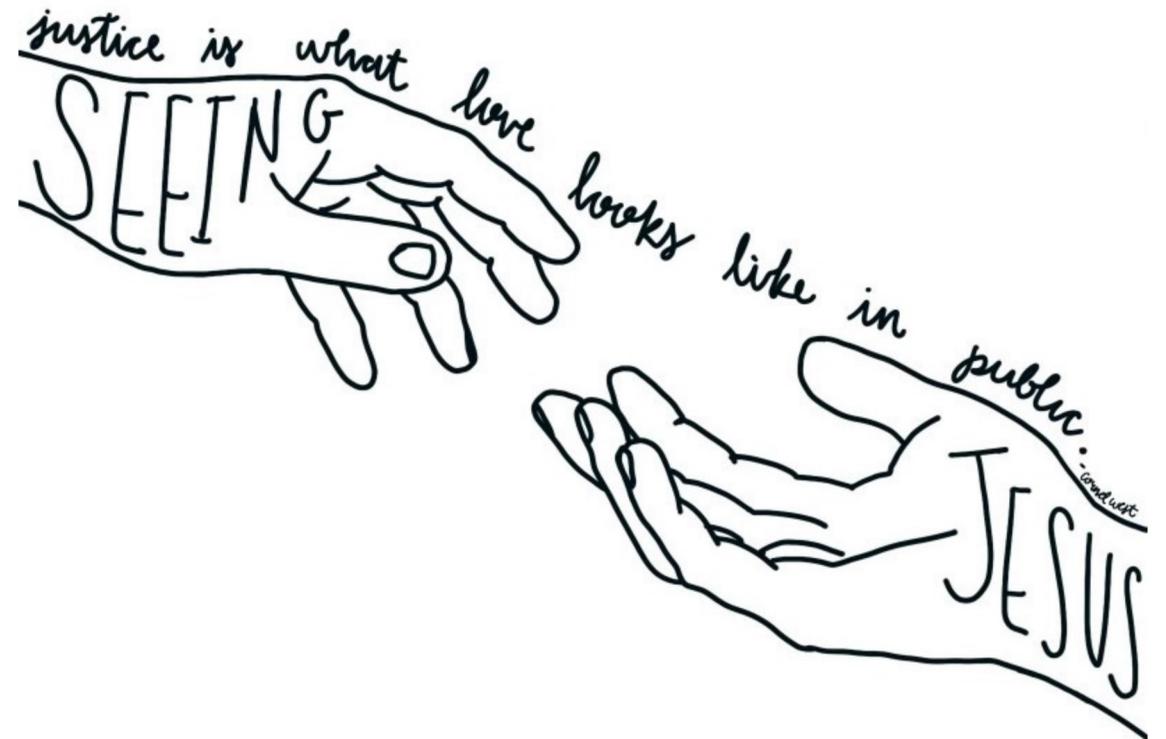
HOW WILL YOU LIVE DIFFERENTLY BECAUSE OF THIS STUDY?

- I am more awake to seeing the world, that there are people struggling and need help. My money could be used for better things.
- My eyes have been opened to the injustices and will not be closed again. I will move forward with Jesus-like intent to best fulfill my life with God.
- I will look for systems that need to be changed within my community and do what I can to help solve those issues and advocate for those who need resources or opportunities.
- I will treat others as if they are Jesus.
- I will be more careful of my actions and fight harder for the rights everyone deserves.
- I am more aware of what we can work on and how people can help.
- I will reach out to different people with needs.
- I will look at people who are homeless differently because people have different things keep them in their situation.

WHERE DO YOU SEE GOD AT WORK? AND HOW CAN YOU JOIN GOD?

- I can join God by helping others.
- God is working in those who see the need, advocate, and speak out on what matters.
- I see God at work at Our Daily Bread.
- I see God at work in people creating charities. I can help by donating.
- At Our Daily Bread and Wings of Hope. I can help out there and/or donate.

YOUTH MINISTRY
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, STILLWATER, OK



SEEING JESUS

Hear from FPC youth on their experiences of the 2021-2022 Seeing Jesus study.

WHAT WE'VE DONE

This year, at Presbyterian Youth Group, we have:

- Studied Matthew 25: asking the questions of 'why are people hungry? sick? strangers? poor? sick? in prison?'
- Made connections between the symptoms of community issues and the systemic problems that lie beneath them.
- Discussed how our faith moves us to action; to see Jesus in others and respond in faithful ways.
- Played Justice Monopoly: what rules are in place in our society that give people unfair advantages or disadvantages?
- I was Hungry: stories of those experiencing hunger, root causes of hunger, addressing issues related to hunger - it's not just about food.
- I was Thirsty: heard from someone working on water justice issues around the world. Why are people thirsty if there's enough water on this planet for all? The importance of partnering with communities and not telling them what they need.
- I was a Stranger: Refugee simulation; considering the difficult choices refugees have to make. Learning about our new Afghan neighbors and ways we can best welcome.
- I was Naked (poor): studied Isaiah 58. Why are people in poverty? Participated in the Spent simulation and challenges of poverty.
- I was Sick - reflected on the importance of access to health care. Read Luke 5 and were inspired by the actions of the friends who brought their friend through the roof to Jesus to be healed.
- I was In Prison - learned about restorative justice and were inspired by several organizations in Oklahoma City working toward restorative justice.

EXPERIENCE IT.



Simulations were a powerful way for us to experience and reflect on the topics we studied. The youth invite YOU to explore these simulations using the links below.

SPENT SIMULATION

An online experience about poverty and the challenges it brings.
playspent.org



REFUGEE SIMULATION

An online simulation to reflect on the difficult choices refugees must often make.
<https://bbc.in/3vMe9aq>



RACIAL WEALTH GAP SIMULATION

Understand the connections between racial equity, hunger, poverty, and wealth.
<https://bit.ly/3vBtF9e>



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Video from Flourish OKC about organizations in OK working toward restorative justice.
<https://bit.ly/3pCNUzH>



WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

WHAT DISCUSSION OR ACTIVITY FROM THIS STUDY IMPACTED YOU AND WHY?

- The "I was Sick" discussion and the Kerplunk game because it showed me how not having access to one part of health care could make you lose more.
- Imprisoned/Stranger-broadened my thought about people I need to let into my life.
- The discussion about biblical justice and how it differs from the justice system today.
- The refugee simulation and what kinds of choices refugees have to make.
- The Justice Monopoly and Restorative Justice discussions were really impactful because they highlighted the unfair rules/systems in our society and how it's hard to bounce back from being incarcerated, etc. if the whole system is built against you.
- The simulations we did felt very real and changed my perspective.
- Isaiah 58 made me think about fasting and showing God's love in a different way. Restorative justice taught me how our prison system focuses more on punishment and less on healing and restoration. Everyone has a story and needs a second chance.
- The Spent simulation - people who don't have very much money have tough decisions.
- Justice Monopoly helped me realize how unfair disadvantages affect people.
- The Racial Wealth Gap simulation taught me about all the instances people were treated poorly by laws that were introduced.

IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU SEE "THE OTHER" IN A NEW WAY NOW?

- I learned there is more to their story and more holding them back that I first knew.
- I see them as people who need help rather than as people who made wrong choices.
- I see those imprisoned as just like the rest of us. Some people are in a bad situation and need help with rehabilitation/recovery so they can make a better life for themselves.
- When they hurt, we hurt. We should not dismiss their needs. We are responsible as God's people to look out for God's people.
- I see "the other" with more empathy and humanity. I look at them as human, rather than the label that gets put on them.
- I've learned they have to make hard decisions that they really shouldn't have to make.
- I've realized how common these issues can be and how many people turn a blind eye.
- I recognize that they are struggling and not a lot of people really help them.
- Instead of pitying them, I have learned ways I can help them.
- I know there is so much more I can do.

WHAT ARE 1-2 THINGS YOU WILL REMEMBER FROM THIS STUDY?

- The different challenges that people face in this world and to not be afraid to ask people what they need or to ask them their stories.
- We need to show compassion to those who are struggling because that is what God calls us to do. We need to do the work to make lasting changes, not just quick fixes.
- I've opened my eyes to the ways WE can notice and make a difference in this world.
- A changed perspective of "the other."
- That some rules that are in place in our society only help certain people.
- Why people are in poverty.
- I will remember how real people will be affected by the choices we make.
- I will remember how our systems have negatively affected people.