

If you could fix any injustice in the world,  
what would it be?

Join by Web [PollEv.com/sarapantazes775](https://PollEv.com/sarapantazes775)



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## Bridging the Gap Between Kids & Justice



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# Hello!

I am Sara Pantazes.



WILLIAM  
& MARY



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## My limitations when talking about injustices

What are yours?



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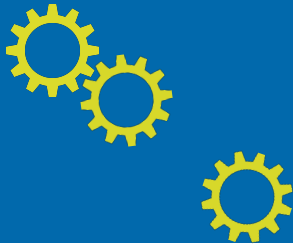
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- Class
- Race
- Education
- Gender
- Geography



What limitations do you have when talking about injustices?

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## Survey of the room

How does justice connect to your personal faith?

- A. It's vital and has been an integral part of how I understand faith for a long time.
- B. It's important and I've been learning about and growing in this aspect of my faith for awhile.
- C. It's important and I've been learning about and growing in this aspect of my faith for a relatively short period of time.
- D. I'm not sure.
- E. What does justice have to do with anything?

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## Survey of the room #2

In which of these areas are you most interested in learning more?

- A. What (Biblical understanding of justice)
- B. Why (The connection of justice to our faith)
- C. How (Educational theory and practice)
- D. Risks (How to handle the challenges)
- E. Something else

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## AGENDA

1. WHAT
2. WHY
3. HOW
4. THE RISKS
5. QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

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## What is justice?

### Mishpat

Treat people equitably

### Creation Story

Tells us how God wanted the world to be

### Jesus

Did righteousness and justice, and told us to do likewise.



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# Questions



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## What is justice? Kids version



In the  
beginning:  
Perfect  
creation

Humans started  
making choices

Bad and sad → Injustices

Someday....

all good and no  
bad, all joy and no  
sad

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## Table Discussion - Why?

Where is your congregation on  
justice?

- A. It's solidly a part of our life and identity.
- B. We are genuinely interested in it, but have limits.
- C. It's a challenge for us but we're working on it.
- D. We are not really engaged with this issue.

Where is your congregation  
on justice with kids?

- A. It's part of our DNA.
- B. We are working on building it into our DNA with excitement.
- C. We are working on building it into our DNA but with reservations.
- D. Interested but haven't really started.
- E. Barely given it any thought.

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## Why talk about injustices with kids

They already know



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## Why talk about injustices with kids

They already know



Justice is central to our faith story



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## Why talk about injustices with kids

They already know



Part of the building faith puzzle



Justice is central to our faith story



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## Why talk about injustices with kids

The graphic consists of a dark grey wavy road with white dashed lines, winding across the slide. Five colored circles are placed along the road, each with a text label above or below it:

- Red circle (top):** They already know
- Purple circle (bottom):** Justice is central to our faith story
- Green circle (top):** Part of the building faith puzzle
- Blue circle (bottom):** It can lead to something new
- Orange circle (bottom):** (No text label)



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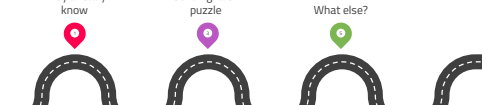
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## Why talk about injustices with kids



They already know

Part of the building faith puzzle

What else?

Justice is central to our faith story

It can lead to something new

You fill in the blank!

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# Discussion

They already know

Justice is central to our faith story



Part of the building faith puzzle

It can lead to something new

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## How to talk about injustices with kids

Decide on your topic

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## How to talk about injustices with kids

Decide on your topic

Scope

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## How to talk about injustices with kids

Decide on your topic

Teacher skills

Scope

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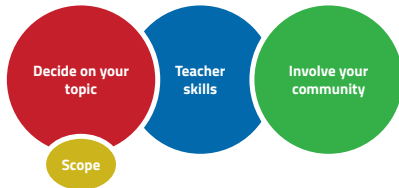
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## How to talk about injustices with kids



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## How to talk about injustices with kids



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# Discussion



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**Things to  
keep in mind  
with  
challenging  
content**

**Rebekah  
Gienapp**

Don't use doom and gloom to shock kids

Prioritize hope and agency

Watch for verbal and non-verbal cues

Careful with violence

**What else?**

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**The risks: Naysayers**



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**The risks: Getting it wrong**



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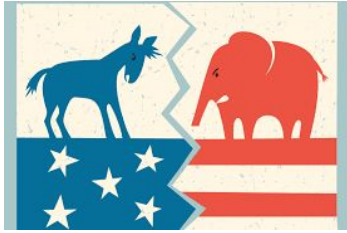
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## The risks: It's "political"



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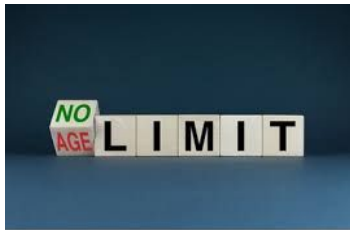
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## The risks: Not age appropriate



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## The risks

- Naysayers
- Getting it wrong
- Too political
- Not age appropriate



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*Evidence of the presence of the Kingdom of God is thick wherever and whenever people stand on the promise of God that there is more to this world-more to this life-than what we see...There is a vision of a world where God cuts through the chaos, where God speaks and there is light...And there is a promise that as long as we follow God's way, there will be life, healing, and love.*

*The Very Good Gospel by Lisa Sharon Harper*

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## Closing Thoughts



- What excites you about this? What scares you?
- What resources, especially curricula, would you recommend?
- Other questions or thoughts?

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## Thanks!!

Let's keep talking!

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# Bridging the Gap Between Kids & Justice

Why is this  
important?

How is this already  
happening?

How can we do  
this more?

Who would help?

Additional Thoughts: