

On Earth

as it is in Heaven



Justice Survey Tool

A FOUR PART TEACHING SERIES ON JUSTICE

SCOTT HIGGINS



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Rev. Scott Higgins

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Scott Higgins is a social justice and ethics consultant, educator and writer. Ordained as a pastor by the Baptist Churches of NSW and ACT he worked for fifteen years in pastoral ministry and spent a decade working for Baptist World Aid where he founded the Catalyst advocacy program; wrote the widely used 50:50 and End of Greed books, preaching and study guides; and initiated the now acclaimed fashion industry supply chain reports. After concluding at Baptist World Aid he founded A Just Cause, a delegated body of Australian Baptist Ministries, designed to equip churches to pursue justice issues within Australia; initiated Converge, an annual gathering of Baptist leaders from across Australia to lobby Federal Parliamentarians on issues of justice; and served on the Boards of Micah Challenge and Stop the Traffik. Scott lives in Newcastle with his wife Sandy and two of their three children, and is an active member of Hamilton Baptist Church.

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Building Justice into the DNA of your Church

In this resource we see that justice is one of the core pursuits of God's people.

This survey tool will help a church leadership team, or the leadership of a subgroup within the church, to develop their ministry in justice.

Part 1. Where are we now?

In this section evaluate the status of justice in your church life at present by surveying your church and your leadership group. Use the two surveys to develop a summary statement of where the church currently sits in respect to the practice of justice. We recommend that you do this at the conclusion of the 'On Earth as it is in Heaven' series.

- The survey for your church is printed on page 2
- The survey for leadership is printed on page 3 and page 4

Part 2. Where do we want to be?

Part 2 provides a simple tool for church leaders to develop an action plan for your next steps.

- The planning tool is on page 4

Practising Justice Survey

To help us plan congregational life going forward, please answer the following questions:

1. Do you think that our church focuses on justice issues...

Too little

Too much

About right

2. Choose three issues of justice in our community, nation, or world that you think are the most important for our church to respond to?

Abortion

Modern slavery

Domestic violence

People living in poverty in Australia

Environment

People living in poverty overseas

Euthanasia

Prisons/law and order

Indigenous Australians

Refugees and asylum seekers

Mental illness

Other (please name)

3. Do you volunteer or work for an organisation involved in social justice? Yes/No. If yes, which organisations (optional)?

Yes

No

Which organisation/s? _____

4. Do you financially and/or prayerfully support any organisations that are involved in social justice? Yes/No If yes, which organisations (optional)?

Yes

No

Which organisation/s? _____

5. Are you interested in being involved in justice focused ministries in our church?

Yes

No

Leadership Survey

1. How frequently does prayer around local, national or global justice issues feature in our congregational worship?

2. How frequently do you think such prayer should feature?

3. How frequently do issues of justice, whether these be local, national or global, feature in the preaching of our church?

4. How frequently should this occur?

5. Which ministries of our church focus upon those who are exploited, oppressed, abused, marginalised, or disadvantaged?

6. Do you think this is an appropriate level for a church of our size and capacity?

7. Does our church support any ministries outside the church that focus upon those who are exploited, repressed, abused, marginalised or disadvantaged?

8. Do you think this is an appropriate level for a church of our size and capacity?

9. What policies and practises does our church have to minimise its environmental footprint and purchase products that are ethically produced?

Leadership Action Plan - Where do we want to be?

On the basis of the surveys describe where you would like your church to be in 12 months.

In 12 months we will:

1. Include prayer around justice into our church services on a...
Weekly Fortnightly Monthly Quarterly basis
2. Devote _____ sermons per year to exploring justice issues
3. Have launched _____ ministries to people who are exploited, oppressed, abused, marginalised or disadvantaged in our local community
4. Provide _____ justice-focused ministries with
Volunteers Financial support Prayer support

Leadership Action Plan - How will we get there?

1. What resources (physical assets, financial, people) do we have that could be deployed to get us to where we want to be?

2. Who could we partner with to get where we want to be?
 - a. In our local community:

- b. In Baptist networks (e.g. Baptist Care; A Just Cause, Catalyst, Baptist World Aid):

- c. Other potential partners and resources:

3. Who will assume responsibility for developing and implementing an action plan?



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