

Small Group Material - Fruitfulness on the Frontline

Mouthpiece for Truth and Justice - Col 1.9-14

Make sure you leave time for the very important Witness section.

Welcome (10 mins) It's got two parts....

- A. Did you bless anyone using £3 last week? How did they react?
- B. Is there someone who you recognise as being a mouthpiece for truth and justice (past or present)? What did they do and why? Or, is there a time *you* have had to speak up for truth or justice?

Worship (8 mins)

Read Psalm 9 (maybe each person read two verses?). *The psalmist is praising God for deliverance from hostile nations as well as from wicked ones in the country.* As you read it, notice what it says about God's commitment to truth and justice, both now and in the future. Turn it into prayer: each person could base their prayer on a verse. There's no song now as there is one in the Witness section.

Word (Total 45 mins)

PLAY FILM to end - approx. 11 mins

Questions to discuss after the Film (10 mins)

- The decision that Jeremy took to work for a company where he knew that he would have to negotiate some very tricky ethical dilemmas took courage. Speaking up against the boss took courage. What are some of the issues that might prevent you from speaking out on your frontline?
- In this example, we see that the words and actions of one person can have an effect beyond what seems possible. Does this change your perspective on the impact that your words may have on your frontline?

Read Colossians 1. 9-14 (25 mins)

1. (v.12-14) Christians have been rescued from one kingdom and brought into another one (like the Israelites at the Exodus). This gives us our identity as God's people. How does God's forgiveness of us

provide the basis for our own actions of mercy and justice towards and on behalf of others?

2. What does Paul pray for the Colossians (v.9)? Why is this so important? (ie 'knowing his will') How do you think we can practically be "filled with an ever growing knowledge of his will"?
3. Why does Paul pray this (v10-12)? What is the connection between 'knowing his will' and your answers to this question?
4. How do these attributes affect our ability to be a 'mouthpiece for truth and justice'?
5. Think about the injustices and untruths that you see on your frontline – is God bringing something particular to your attention? Might there be things that God is prompting you to do?

Witness (20 mins)

A. Has anyone in the group got an issue on their frontline which they would value prayer for? A truth or justice issue which you could all pray about?

B. *Emma writes, 'God can do extraordinary things - we know that there is so much brokenness in our communities, and I promise you that it will exist in your neighbourhood - with God's help, you might be able to bring light into that situation. Our first step is to start praying - then we will be "pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work" (verse 10). The incredible thing is that God does know what is going on behind the doors in our streets and offices, he knows what is going on in people's hearts.'*

Watch this video of Brandon Heath, 'Give me your eyes':

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5AkNgLuVgY> (Lyrics printed below)

This week, could you ask God to point out what he wants you to see, what/who he wants you to pray for? Ask him as you walk to your car, or down your street, or to the shops, or down the corridor at work, or as you mix with groups of people. Or go on a 'Prayer-Walk'.

Pray together for God to open your eyes to see if there are injustices in your workplace or neighbourhood that you could address?

Give Me Your Eyes

Brandon Heath

Looked down from a broken sky
Traced out by the city of lights
My world from a mile high
Best seat in the house tonight
Touch down on the cold black-top
Hold on for the sudden stop
Breathe in the familiar shock of confusion and chaos
All those people going somewhere, why have I never cared

Give me your eyes for just one second
Give me your eyes so I can see,
Everything that I keep missing,
Give your love for humanity.
Give me your arms for the broken-hearted
The ones that are far beyond my reach.
Give me Your heart for the ones forgotten.
Give me Your eyes so I can see.

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah

Step out on the busy street.
See a girl and our eyes meet.
Does her best to smile at me.
To hide what's underneath.
There's a man just to her right
Black suit and a bright red tie.
Too ashamed to tell his wife he's out of work, he's buyin time.
All those people going somewhere, why have I never cared.

Give me your eyes for just one second
Give me your eyes so I can see,
Everything that I keep missing,
Give your love for humanity.
Give me your arms for the broken-hearted
The ones that are far beyond my reach.

Give me Your heart for the ones forgotten.
Give me Your eyes so I can see.

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah

I've been there a million times
A couple million lives
Just moving past me by, I swear I never thought that I was wrong
But I wanna second glance so give me a second chance
To see the way you've seen the people all along

Give me your eyes for just one second
Give me your eyes so I can see
Everything that I keep missing
Give your love for humanity
Give me your arms for the broken-hearted
The ones that are far beyond my reach
Give me Your heart for the ones forgotten
Give me Your eyes so I can see

Give me your eyes for just one second
Give me your eyes so I can see
Everything that I keep missing
That I keep missing
Give me your arms for the broken-hearted
The ones that are far beyond my reach.
Give me Your heart for the ones forgotten
Give me Your eyes so I can see.

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah

Songwriters: Jason David Ingram / Brandon Heath
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