



Helping Kids See Fairness God's Way

When Life Feels Unfair

Lesson Aim

To help kids see that God's justice is greater than fairness because it brings mercy and gives people a chance to change.

Scripture Focus

- "When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it." (Jonah 3:10, *ESV*)
- "What does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8, *ESV*)

Connect

- **Connection Point:** Ask: *"Has there ever been a time you thought someone didn't deserve to be forgiven? How did that feel?"*

Teach

- **Bible Story:** Read or retell the story of Jonah and Nineveh (Jonah 3:1–4:11)

God told Jonah to go to the great city of Nineveh and tell the people to stop doing evil. At first Jonah ran away, but after God rescued him from the fish, Jonah finally obeyed. He walked through the city shouting, "In forty days Nineveh will be destroyed!"



Church Lesson | Fairness

Something amazing happened. The people listened. From the king all the way down to the poorest person, everyone stopped what they were doing, wore clothes of mourning, and prayed to God. They turned from their evil ways.

And God showed mercy. He did not destroy the city.

But Jonah wasn't happy. He pouted outside the city and said, "See, God? This is why I didn't want to come. I knew You would forgive them! It's not fair." Jonah wanted Nineveh punished.

God gently answered, "Should I not care about this great city with more than a hundred thousand people?" God's justice was not about giving the people what Jonah thought they deserved. It was about giving them a chance to change. His justice came with mercy.

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. Why was Jonah angry when God forgave Nineveh?
2. What did the people of Nineveh do when they heard Jonah's warning?
3. What does this story teach us about God's justice?

- **Explain:**

- Fairness says, "give them what they deserve."
- God's justice goes further—it brings mercy and new beginnings.

Model

- **Teacher shares:** a personal story when you wanted someone to "get what they deserved," but God reminded you to forgive or show kindness.
- **Student activity:** Let kids act out short skits where someone does something wrong—like cutting in line or breaking a toy. One group shows a "fair" response (demanding payback), while another shows a "just and merciful" response (forgiveness, second chance). Afterward, talk about which response looks more like God's way.

Pray

- "God, thank You that Your justice is greater than fairness. Thank You for giving us mercy instead of what we deserve. Help us show that same mercy to others."

Craft/Activity

- Kids can create "**Mercy Hearts.**" On one side of a paper heart, they draw or write something that feels unfair. On the other side, they draw or write how God might respond—with mercy, kindness, or forgiveness.

Key Takeaway

- God's justice is greater than fairness—it brings mercy.