



Helping Kids See Fairness God's Way

When Life Feels Unfair

Raising Christ-Centered Kids | Character | Fairness

By Nancy Fujii, Founder & Teacher, L.I.G.H.T. Kingdom Kids®

"For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him." (Isaiah 30:18, ESV)

Key Takeaway

God's justice goes beyond fairness and shows mercy.

The Biblical Meaning of Fairness

When kids say, "That's not fair!" they're really crying for something deep in the human heart—the longing for things to be right. That longing comes from God, who made us in His image to love what is good and true. The Bible doesn't often use the word fair, but it speaks repeatedly of justice, which is God's way of setting things right (Micah 6:8).

Fairness usually means everyone gets the same thing, but God's justice goes beyond that. It gives what is right and needed according to His wisdom and love (Psalm 89:14). When people do wrong, His justice doesn't rush to punish, instead it looks to restore. The cross is the clearest picture of this truth. From our view, it wasn't "fair" that Jesus, who never sinned, took our place. But in God's perfect justice, mercy triumphed over fairness. Through Christ, we are forgiven and made new (Romans 3:23–26; 1 Peter 2:24).

God's justice is personal and redemptive, not cold, or distant. It doesn't just balance the scales; it brings mercy that heals hearts, corrects what's broken, and restores what sin has damaged.



Understanding Fairness: When Life Feels Unfair

Kids feel unfairness quickly. Someone cuts in line, gets the bigger slice, or breaks a rule without consequence. These moments sting because the world was made for goodness and unfairness shows the absence of goodness. As parents, we can remind them: life isn't always fair, but God is always just. His justice never fails, even when we can't see it (Psalm 9:7–8).

When unfair things happen, children need empathy before explanation. Listen first. Then help them see that God notices every wrong and promises to make all things right in His time. That's why we can choose mercy when others don't deserve it. Fairness demands even treatment; justice calls us to love like God with patience, truth, and kindness. When your child learns to forgive, share, or let go of revenge, they're living out God's justice, not giving up fairness.

Practical Steps: Helping Kids See Fairness God's Way

1. **Listen First** — When your child cries, "That's not fair!" pause. Let them explain what happened. Listening helps them feel safe before you point to truth.
2. **Redefine Fairness** — Explain that "fair" isn't always "equal." God's justice gives what's right, not always what's the same.
3. **Point to God's Justice** — Tell stories where God joined justice with mercy: Adam and Eve's forgiveness (Genesis 3), Israel after the golden calf (Exodus 32–34), David's repentance (2 Samuel 12, Psalm 51), or Jesus dying for sinners (Romans 3:23–26).
4. **Practice Mercy** — When siblings argue or friends are unkind, guide your child to show kindness instead of payback, just as God shows us mercy.
5. **Pray Together** — When life feels unfair, help your child bring it to God. Pray for wisdom to respond like Jesus, who trusted His Father's justice even when wronged.

Scripture for Parents and Kids

- "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*)
- "But the LORD sits enthroned forever; he has established his throne for justice, and he judges the world with righteousness." (Psalm 9:7–8, *ESV*)
- "For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality." (Colossians 3:25, *ESV*)

Encouragement for Parents

It's not easy to watch your child wrestle with unfairness. You may want to fix it all, but often the best gift is perspective. When you point them to God's justice, you plant seeds of hope that grow into lasting faith. God sees your child. He sees you. And His justice is always working, even when life feels unfair.

CTMP Corner: Kingdom Kids in Action

- **Connect:** Listen when your child says, "That's not fair."
- **Teach:** Explain how God's justice goes beyond fairness.
- **Model:** Show mercy when something feels unfair to you.
- **Pray:** Ask God to help your family trust His justice.