



just WATER

SESSION 4

MOVEMENT MESSAGE

MESSAGE: JUST WATER THROUGH A JUST CHURCH

INTRODUCTION

In Session 4 we will learn about how the passion you have in your heart for justice can be a beautiful amplified through the Body of Christ. Bring your burden and your dream to the church and its leaders. Let that dream become an active part of your life.

VIDEO

Click on the link to the right to watch and download the *Oceans of Justice* video for Session 4.

Or visit <https://vimeo.com/131470530>





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TEACHING OUTLINE

MESSAGE: THE JUST MOVE – TOGETHER WE CHANGE THE WORLD

CONNECTION

It's human to recognize need in the world. It's human to think wrong things need to be made right.

Tell a story:

- about a time when you saw an injustice and decided to respond to it
- about a time when your church met a need, and talk about the joys and the challenges of saying “yes” to doing something to fight injustice

Young people have the potential to become the greatest movement of justice in our world because they are in a unique position to do it.

THE ACHE

Sometimes it doesn't feel that way. Sometimes you may feel limited or like someone who doesn't fit in the church. If you choose to work with your church you might say things like,

It takes so long.
There aren't enough resources.
It's difficult to find a Church that seems to care.
The church isn't listening.
No one there seems to understand my passion.

All of these are valid points because sometimes they are true. But YOUR participation in the Body of Christ is the thing that changes the water challenges in the world.

Not only does the Church have YOUR passions and abilities, but it also has Jesus' passion and divine ability. This is what sets you apart and makes whole life, and whole community transformation possible.

GOD SPEAKS

Jesus went to His church, the temple where he grew up, and read the words of the prophet Isaiah. He looked back to the prophets and forward into the future—to you—and connected both in the middle with His divine love and grace. His Body connects all of us.

It was in that place that Jesus presented His mission and passion to the church. Even after being rejected repeatedly

He didn't give up. He continues to go work through us. Clearly Jesus has a different idea for what the church will be.

When Peter declared Jesus as the Messiah, Jesus' response was to call Peter the rock on which Jesus would build His church.

Jesus knew something about Peter that Peter didn't know about himself. Jesus knew that He would be able to build His church on an average guy--normal, ordinary, flawed, prone to making mistakes-- and on us.

Amos 5:24

Luke 4:14-21

Acts 2:42

Revelation 7:17

The church would be the people that Jesus would embody to restore and heal creation.

THE HOPE

God has placed a song in your heart for justice, for new life. Clean water is an expression of a world restored. It becomes a burden. It's an ache to see things changed. The good news is this, you have a beautiful amplifier called the Body of Christ. Bring your burden and your dream to the church and its leaders. Let that dream become an active part of your life.

APPLICATION

Your dreaming, activity, and influence is a part of a bigger story.

You can move from passively accepting unjust cycles you see to willingly creating justice movements through your church.

- Tell your JUST WATER story to your church (You can be burdened and burned out, or you can be burdened and vocal.)
 - Tell stories of water injustice (or other injustices you see)
 - Invite the church to come alongside you to write new stories about new healthy cycles
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LANDING

YOUR LIFE IS A MOVEMENT IN THE BODY OF CHRIST.

MAY YOUR GIFTS IN THE MOVEMENT UNLEASH THE POWER OF THE EVER FLOWING STREAM.

AMOS 5:24



just WATER

TEACHING SCRIPT

MESSAGE: THE JUST MOVE – TOGETHER WE CHANGE THE WORLD

CONNECTION

It's human to recognize need in our world.

Tell a story:

Story example:

Students in the Philippines made a decision to be the Church when they made a move toward justice together.

They decided to go into a remote mountain community and report on the water needs. What they discovered was difficult: The community's only water source was a mountain spring muddied by dirt and contaminated by open defecation practices. The situation was not only harmful to the community, but the water there was also scarce during dry seasons. What they learned as they asked questions and as they listened to the people in the community was that they needed help installing a 3-kilometer water line.

Kids and women were spending their time twice a day gathering contaminated water. The students doing the report learned that education about hand-washing practices and latrine practices would greatly change the health of the community. This type of education wasn't seen as an important practice in the community, but it easily could be with some effort.

The students submitted the report, including interviews with community members and photos, along with a proposal for how they wanted to meet the need. They created a plan for turning a dream into reality. It was done so well, that the Church decided to meet this need. They told the story. And now a small mountain community will have a new water story.

The beautiful part about this story is that there's more than water supply being given--there's community, there's support, there's access to something their bodies need. They have access to hope.

You see, you can become the greatest movement of justice in our world because you are uniquely positioned in the Church to do it.

THE ACHE

Sometimes it feels like things like this aren't happening like this in our church. You may feel like it's easier to go around the Church to find ways to meet people's needs. Have you ever thought, "It takes so long to work with my church. There aren't enough resources. I can't find a Church that seems to care"? All of these are valid points because sometimes they are true. But YOUR participation in the church is the thing that changes the unjust cycles.

Have you ever thought that maybe the thing that is missing in the equation is you, your friends, your family, your church?

The Body of Christ maximizes YOUR passions and abilities, and expresses itself in Jesus' passion and divine ability. This is what sets the Church apart and makes community transformation possible.

What if the roadblock is actually the perception that you need to go around the church? What if the greatest opportunity is actually working through the church?

Your burden and broken heart for the things you have seen is both your pain and your greatest potential. You cannot unfeel it, but you can respond to it.

"Church" isn't a substitute for behaving well toward other people. The church is the Body of Christ, and Jesus is the essence of how we are transformed when we are a part of the church. You can make a move.

Move from	→	Move to
Control		Empowerment
Disapproval		Championing
Doubt		Belief
Discouragement		Encouragement
Disengagement		Engagement
Hesitancy		Willingness
Inability		Influence
Naysayers		Advocates
Anger		Hopefuls

You were created to be a good gift to the world. Christ in you, poured out is the way unjust things like are made just again. We are a voice for each other, a strength, an endless scope of stories. You can begin to the unjust water cycle that contributes to poverty, to water scarcity and disease by being a part of a church movement that moves to change the cycle together.

The Body of Christ should be the greatest movement of justice in our world because it is uniquely positioned to do be it. Because it has Jesus holding it up. Because it has YOU as a part of it. When the church is moving for justice, it forces out unjust cycles that keep kids and families from getting what they need to live.

Your church is uniquely positioned to work toward restoring a water cycle in the world that benefits everyone. The Body of Christ needs you.

/to re-make your local church to be a center of justice and healing
/to help re-establish justice as central to our identity
/to lead the way in doing justice and loving mercy
/to show others how to come with us

Your lives poured out attract and beckon a broken world to the captivating and healing love of God. In that love, we find the solutions we need and the answers we are looking for.

GOD SPEAKS

In the beginning of Jesus' ministry, He is filled with the Holy Spirit in a desert place. After this happens, His next move, according to the book of Luke, is to go to the synagogue in His own hometown. Jesus gives his first sermon, it was short, but meaningful.

The story goes like this...

Luke 4:16-21 (NIV)

16 He went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day He went into the synagogue, as was His custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, He found the place where it is written:

*"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because He has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

Then He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Imagine Jesus at this moment in time, it's such an incredible position. Jesus was looking back to prophets, including Amos, and then looking forward to you.

Jesus stood, in the middle of the temple-His church-and shared the hope that would be because of his life, death, and resurrection.

Jesus knew that Amos had the ache just like you do. Amos felt the tension too. Amos was disheartened by the "church."

- He was agitated

- He was full of angst, discouraged, hurt

- He painted a dark picture

- He named their sin:

 - it's not war. it's not idolatry. it's not their form of entertainment. it isn't what they eat or drink. it's not their teaching or even their worshipping.

 - it's injustice.

 - it is how they behave toward each other, especially the vulnerable

 - the powerful and influential oppress and exploit the weak and poor.

ACTIVITY

Draw these passages to illustrate the situation or spend some time imagining what Amos must have felt like.

- Amos 2:6-8

- Amos 3:10

- Amos 6:4-6

- Amos 8:4-6

Jesus presented His mission—His passion—to the church. And even after being rejected repeatedly He hasn't given up. He continues to cry out for justice through us. Clearly Jesus has a different idea for what the church will be.

When Peter declares Jesus as the Messiah, Jesus responded by calling Peter the rock upon which He will build His church, “and the gates of hades will not overcome it.”

Jesus knew something about Peter that Peter didn't know about himself. Jesus knew that His followers would become the Church that overcomes all the things that press down on people.

You may feel as though there is a lot reasons to give up on the church. You may even feel as though if God's justice really is to flow like a river and righteousness like a never failing stream, that it'll have to happen somewhere else with somebody else.

If anyone had good reason to believe that the people of the church would never get it right, Jesus did. You see, He saw it all before He saved us all. And that should give us hope.

Jesus didn't give up hope.

Jesus chose to work in and through the church. The most vibrant images that we take away from the Word about the church and Jesus is that the Church is the bride of Christ and the Church is the body of Christ.

This is beautiful news for me and for you.

The Body of Christ should be the greatest movement of justice in our world because it is uniquely positioned accomplish it. With Jesus at the center, we move together. When the church is moving for justice, it will be the most attractive, effective healing agency in the world. When the church is unified in its passion for seeing wrong thing put right then, it'll be a powerful and transforming presence.

In Acts 2:42-47 (NIV), you can learn about the birth of the Christian church.

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

People's lives are being changed. Meals are being shared. Needs are provided for. Everything becomes common. Everyone makes a move for the other in front of them. This is the Church when it's right. This is the Church as it should be. And it needs young people like you to awaken it. How? By presenting your burden for justice. By presenting your broken heart for those who can't get the things that they need. By going after the solutions that can change a person's life. By doing what Jesus did, together.

You are the evidence and image of Jesus in the world. Your life is a good gift to the church. Your life is Christ in you (Eucharist) being poured out as God continually fills you with His Spirit and meets your daily needs.

We've spent this week with this text but let's examine the text around it in verses AMOS 5:21-24:

*I hate, I despise your religious festivals;
your assemblies are a stench to me.
Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them.
Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,
I will have no regard for them.
Away with the noise of your songs!
I will not listen to the music of your harps.
**But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!***

Whoa! Amos is describing is the Body of Christ when it's asleep! The church when it acts like how you might perceive it to be. When it's dormant and focused only on itself. It was never meant to be that way, and when it is the body of Christ becomes sick and paralyzed.

God is giving Amos the vision to see what the body of Christ, the bride of Christ, the Church can and should be when Jesus is at the center and justice is flowing out like a river.

THE HOPE

It is human to recognize the wrong in others while remaining blind to your own wrongs.

It is distinctly Christian to have a duty to work toward making things right in ourselves and in our world.

God has placed a song in your heart for justice, for new life. Clean water is an expression of a world restored. It becomes a burden. It's an ache to see things changed. The good news is this, you have a beautiful amplifier called the Body of Christ. Bring your burden and your dream to the church and its leaders. Let that dream become an active part of your life.

*“We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back. ... We can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their selfhood and robbed of their dignity. ... **No, no we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until ‘justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.’**”*

Martin Luther King Jr. - Pastor and U.S. Civil Rights Movement Leader

Go back into your local church and present your burden. Don't give up no matter what. Let the church do what it was meant to do—through you not without you.

APPLICATION

Tell a story.

- about a someone you know who joined the church to make a change in the world

Story example:

Emily was in middle school when she saw the suffering of girls her age in Zambia. She couldn't forget the walk, the sickness, the fear that surrounded a girl very much like herself. She decided to use her gifts and put them to work for those whose basic rights have been denied. Over the course of a few years, Emily worked hard and successfully raised more \$50,000 US for clean water systems in Zambia. But the story is so much bigger than raising money. None of it would have been possible without the support and energy of the church. Emily's church supported her, and the support of the Church in Zambia helps a community break the unjust cycles they see, including water insecurity. Emily is undoubtedly an exceptional human being. But she shouldn't be the exception in the church. People like Emily should be the rule.

You and others like Emily are the rule of the church--when Jesus leads you.

THE CHURCH IS THE GREATEST TRANSFORMING NETWORK IN THE WORLD.

You don't need to do your own thing despite the Church. You don't need to go around it. You can work through the Church's unique position to help create the world's greatest movement for justice.

- You are already a part of an incredible human collective.
- The insignificance you feel is a lie.
 - Church math is different than regular math. WE is greater than ME. We exist in every corner of the world.
 - you are significant because we are significant
- Evil only wins when you go solo.

Your influence is a part of a bigger story.

Together, you can navigate your passions to engage the greater story through the Church.

You can move from passively accepting unjust cycles you see to willingly creating justice movements through your church. Here's how:

- Tell your JUST WATER story to the church
(You can be burdened and burned out,
or you can be burdened and be vocal.)
- Tell stories about the unjust cycles you see
- Invite the church to write new stories and create new cycles with you

LANDING

Imagine if young Christians everywhere began working through the Church to create a movement for justice. It would be the most tightly connected, dynamic, momentous revolution the 21st century has seen.

- How could it be stopped? Who is going to slow it down? What is big enough to stand in its way?
 - slaves will be set free
 - thirst will be quenched
 - hungry will be fed
 - workers will be treated fairly
 - women will be equal
 - children will be educated
 - sick will be made well
 - marginalized will be included
 - vulnerable will be protected
 - resources will be shared
 - orphans will be cared for
 - water will bring people to life

YOUR LIFE IS A MOVEMENT IN THE BODY OF CHRIST.

The beauty of God's love is revealed in you and through you.

Imagine what it looks like, dream about it becoming reality, and make your move to live justly today.

MAY YOUR GIFTS IN THE MOVEMENT UNLEASH THE POWER OF THE EVER FLOWING STREAM.

AMOS 5:24

Revelation 7

"After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

*"Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb."*

All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying:

“Amen!

*Praise and glory
and wisdom and thanks and honor
and power and strength
be to our God for ever and ever.*

Amen!”

Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

I answered, “Sir, you know.”

And He said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore,

***“they are before the throne of God
and serve him day and night in His temple;
and He who sits on the throne
will shelter them with His presence.
‘Never again will they hunger;
never again will they thirst.
The sun will not beat down on them,’
nor any scorching heat.
For the Lamb at the center of the throne
will be their shepherd;
‘He will lead them to springs of living water.’
‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.***



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SMALL GROUPS

NOTE FOR LEADER OR PARENT:

Ask questions in a pace that works for your group or family. Silence can be a good thing. Try to steer away from yes/no questions, and affirm the different contributions each person gives to the discussion. You can facilitate the group conversation to be most meaningful by giving more time to the places people feel most engaged.

GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1) The church should be a safe place to talk about our frustrations. Have you ever felt limited or frustrated by the church? In what ways? (Guide the group to stay positive and focus on their personal feelings and experiences, not on individuals or details of their experiences).
- 2) Pick a word that matches a feeling you have felt before. Look at the opposite feeling. What would you need to **believe or do** to make a move from the word in the first column to the word in the second?

Control	Empowerment
Disapproval	Championing
Doubt	Belief
Discouragement	Encouragement
Disengagement	Engagement
Hesitancy	Willingness
Inability	Influence
Naysayers	Advocates
Anger	Hopefuls

- 3) Jesus believed His followers would become the Church. What are some things you can do to be part of a church that moves from the words on the left to the words on the right?

You can move from passively accepting the unjust cycles you see to willingly creating justice movements through your church.

1. How would you like to tell your JUST WATER story to the church?
2. How will you tell stories about the unjust cycles you see?
3. How will you invite others to fight the global water crisis with you?

The Spirit of the Lord anointed Jesus to do justice. The same Spirit is on you to do justice. You have the potential to become the most compassionate movement of justice our world has seen because you are in a unique position of being connected to Jesus and to His body (the church). It's time to make your move—the #justmove.