



# REDISCOVERING OUR PLACE IN GOD'S STORY



## ACT 6 DEVOTIONAL ACTIVITY: PRAYING FOR GOD'S JUSTICE

### DEVOTIONAL READING

"I used to think that wrath was unworthy of God. Isn't God love? Shouldn't divine love be beyond wrath?... My last resistance to the idea of God's wrath was a casualty of the war in the former Yugoslavia, the region from which I come. According to some estimates, 200,000 people were killed and over 3,000,000 were displaced. My villages and cities were destroyed, my people shelled day in and day out, some of them brutalized beyond imagination, and I could not imagine God not being angry. Or think of Rwanda in the last decade of the past century, where 800,000 people were hacked to death in one hundred days! How did God react to the carnage? By doting on the perpetrators in a grandparently fashion? By refusing to condemn the bloodbath but instead affirming the perpetrators' basic goodness? Wasn't God fiercely angry with them? I came to think that I would have to rebel against a God who wasn't wrathful at the sight of the world's evil. God isn't wrathful in spite of being love. God is wrathful because God is love." (Miroslav Volf)

"It isn't that God basically wants to condemn people and then finds a way to rescue some from that disaster. It's that God longs to bless, to bless lavishly, and so to rescue and bless those in danger of tragedy - and therefore He must curse everything that thwarts and destroys the blessing of his world and his people." (N. T. Wright)

When we think about the judgment and justice of God, many of us respond with fear or dread. We think of God's wrath as a element of His character we'd rather avoid. But for those who suffer under oppression and injustice, the justice of God is good news. It's a promise that God will one day set this world to rights. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn." This was a promise that those who mourn over the world's injustices and long for God's Kingdom to set things right are at home in God's family.

### ACTIVITY

Read the news each day this week. Rather than reading the news for entertainment or as a way to pass time and deal with boredom, allow yourself to become engaged with one story about suffering, pain, or injustice each day. Take time to feel compassion for those who have experienced loss or injustice. Spend time reflecting on what it might mean for God to bring his justice into their situation and need.

Pray the Lord's Prayer for the people in the news story. Use your 'holy imagination' to consider what God's justice might look like. Pray for specific needs to be met. Pray for victims to receive justice. Pray for God's comfort and hope. Pray that the powers that keep people under the yolk of oppression will be destroyed and brought to justice.