

SESSION 6:

MOUThPIECE FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE

'Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.' Isaiah 1:17

Key Question: How might I be a mouthpiece for truth and justice on my frontline?

Aims: To see where justice and truth are not being upheld on our frontlines and to grow in wisdom and courage to speak up where necessary.

Core Text: 2 Samuel 12:1-13

Materials: Bibles

Thinking Back (5 mins)

In the last session we looked at moulding culture – influencing the way things are done on our frontlines so that they become places where people can better flourish.

- Does anyone have any observations to share about the culture of their frontline this week – perhaps something positive or something negative that you noticed for the first time?
- Did anyone have the opportunity to begin to make a small change to their frontline culture?

Pre-Film Discussion (10 mins)

Today, we're looking at being a mouthpiece for truth and justice – speaking up for right living and fair dealings in order that things become more in line with God's ways.

What instances of injustice or untruth have you seen on your frontline recently?





PLAY FILM (11 mins)

Questions to Discuss after the Film (10 mins)

- The decision that Jeremy made, 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?
- Jeremy's Christian friends thought that taking the job was a bad idea. What do you think Jeremy could see that his friends couldn't?
- 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?

Group Activity (5 mins)

On our frontlines, all of us will have found ourselves in conversations where the person we are talking to is saying something unkind (whether true or not) about someone else.

Are there any tactics that you have found useful in these situations that have enabled you to stand up for truth and justice?

Bible Reflection (20 mins)

2 SAMUEL 12:1-13

In 2 Samuel 11, David, the king of Israel, had done something terrible, breaking three of the Ten Commandments in dramatic fashion. First, he covets another man's wife, as he watches Bathsheba bathe from the vantage point of his palace roof. Secondly, he commits adultery with her, having had her brought to him, and she falls pregnant. Then thirdly, having failed to cover up his part in Bathsheba's pregnancy, he has her husband Uriah killed, in order that he may take Bathsheba to be his own wife. David's ruthless plan succeeded because many people around him simply obeyed orders and did not question his actions. It appeared that he had got away with what he had done. However, after the birth of the child, the Lord sends the prophet Nathan to bring David face-to-face with his wrongdoing.

Questions on the next page...



- Nathan could have found many excuses not to follow the Lord's instruction. If you were Nathan, what are some of the reasons you might have given for not wanting to confront King David?
- How does the injustice in the story that Nathan tells about the rich and the poor man relate to King David's actions?
- What do you think would have happened in King David's life if Nathan had not taken this step of courageous obedience?
- Nathan speaks with great wisdom and is able to bring King David to the point of realising his own wrongdoing. How might we learn from Nathan's example? What factors might be relevant for us when we are weighing up whether or not to speak out in our own circumstances?

Praying Forwards (10 mins - as a group)

Spend a few minutes in silent reflection. Think about the injustices and untruths that you see on your frontline – is God bringing one particular thing to your attention? Like Nathan, might there be things that God is prompting you to do about this and is there any particular wisdom you may need?

Share your reflections in pairs or as a group and pray together.



Takeaway Action

Take some time to meditate on Philippians 4:8 this week and ask God what this might mean for your particular frontline:

'Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.'

