



Tools to support community transformation

B REVEALING WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

Advocacy work



Why use this Bible study?

This Bible study can help us explore some of what the Bible says about our responsibility to stand up for the rights of other people.



Defending the weak, fatherless poor and oppressed

Read Psalm 82:2-4. How could ignoring injustice and taking no action when bad things happen to innocent people be seen as the same as supporting injustice?



Key points

The Bible clearly teaches that God is a God of justice. He stands up for the rights of the weak and oppressed, the fatherless and the widow. How should we respond?



Questions for discussion

- Who in our community could be described as weak and fatherless?
- Who could be described as oppressed in our community?
- Does this psalm suggest or command that we should take action about injustice? How should we respond?
- What can we learn from other people and groups about how to campaign effectively?
- Are there people suffering injustice in our community that we could work with to advocate for change? What issues require local changes? For example, are children with HIV prevented from attending school? How could we work with them and their families to advocate for changes in attitudes and school policy?
- Are there other issues that might require advocacy work at regional level? For example, are some people unable to access public transport? How could we help them advocate for improvements and change?



Notes

This Bible study was first published in Tearfund (2006) A PILLARS Guide: *Seeking justice for all* http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/pillars/seeking_justice_for_all/

Related tools

- B – Being an advocate (Bible study) [B: Influencing decision-makers-2]
- B – Fighting injustice (Bible study) [B: Influencing decision-makers-3]
- B – The role of the church in advocacy (Bible study) [B: Influencing decision-makers-4]
- C1 – Ways of taking action [C1: Awareness-raising-1]
- C1 – Advocacy – communicating with people in power [C1: Influencing decision-makers-1]
- C1 – Making the most of meetings with decision-makers [C1: Influencing decision-makers-4]
- C1 – Mobilising people [C1: Influencing decision-makers-2]

Awareness-raising
Children & youth
Climate & environment
Conflict & peace-building
Corruption & governance
Disaster risk management
Discrimination & inclusion
Food & livelihoods
Gender & sexual violence
Health & HIV
Influencing decision-makers
Migration & trafficking
Water, sanitation & hygiene