Character Trait for March 11-15 is Justice

Ephesians 5:1, "Therefore, be imitators of God"

CHARACTER: Qualities built into our lives that determine our responses, regardless of circumstances.

Justice: Taking responsibility to uphold what is pure, right and true.

Derivation: Jus•tice n 1: the quality of being just 2: the principle or ideal of just dealing or right action 3: impartiality; fair representation of the facts 4: sound reason; validity

Weekly Verse: Psalm 11:7 "For the LORD is righteous, he loves justice; the upright will see his face."

Bible Story: Luke 16:19-31 recounts the story of the rich man who denied justice to the poor outside his gates.

Quote: It is reasonable that everyone who asks for justice should also do justice.

Application:
Fair play is a very strong instinct in most of us. We tend to become upset when things aren't fair and we or others get a raw deal.

Justice is obtained in most democratic societies through a system of laws, which are there to make sure that people are not hurt or exploited by others. These laws are made by people to protect them from their own worst behavior. However, sometimes these very laws are shown to be unfair and they need to be challenged and changed.

A simple "rule of thumb" on what is just behavior is provided by the so-called "golden rule" taken from Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount: "Treat others as you want them to treat you'(Matthew 7:12). Jesus calls his followers to see justice, not as a way of getting revenge and paying people back; instead, he calls them to forgive their enemies, go the extra mile and not judge other people.

Working for justice for various groups and causes brings people together to form pressure groups that aim to change things for the better.

Discussion Questions:

1) Is there a difference between being fair and being equal?
2) Can you find one example in the recent news where justice was demonstrated (in your opinion)?
3) Can you find one example in the recent news where injustice was demonstrated (in your opinion)?