

A Team for Justice



Municipal Judges and Officers

¹⁸ You shall appoint judges and officials throughout your tribes, in all your towns that the Lord your God is giving you, and they shall render just decisions for the people. ¹⁹ You must not distort justice; you must not show partiality; and you must not accept bribes, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of those who are in the right. ²⁰ Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue, so that you may live and occupy the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

Legal Decisions by Priests and Judges

⁸ If a judicial decision is too difficult for you to make between one kind of bloodshed and another, one kind of legal right and another, or one kind of assault and

another—any such matters of dispute in your towns—then you shall immediately go up to the place that the Lord your God will choose, ⁹ where you shall consult with the levitical priests and the judge who is in office in those days; they shall announce to you the decision in the case. ¹⁰ Carry out exactly the decision that they announce to you from the place that the Lord will choose, diligently observing everything they instruct you.

¹¹ You must carry out fully the law that they interpret for you or the ruling that they announce to you; do not turn aside from the decision that they announce to you, either to the right or to the left. ¹² As for anyone who presumes to disobey the priest appointed to minister there to the Lord your God, or the judge, that person shall die. So you shall purge the evil from Israel. ¹³ All the people will hear and be afraid,



get excited!
(5 minutes)

Verse to Remember

"You shall appoint judges and officials throughout your tribes, in all your towns that the LORD your God is giving you, and they shall render just decisions for the people." **Deuteronomy 16:18.**

key verse exercise

Use this acronym to help recall the key verse and retell the bible lesson. (See Teacher's Guide):

T.E.A.M.

T	E	A	M

read and learn!
(10 minutes)

GOD'S JUST JUDGES AND PRIESTS

ZION: We have heard this said before, "Teamwork makes the dream-work."

ZAYA: Yeah but some people don't work well in teams plus they don't understand how much more can be accomplished when people work together. I enjoy when we have group assignments at school, and I work well with teams. I consider myself to be a good team player.

ZION: Being a good team player involves following the rules, you know that right? And, remembering that there is no "I" in the acronym T.E.A.M. As they say, we ride together!

ZAYA: Maybe that's why in our lesson today, we find that God appointed judges and officials to do justice work. In other words, God created a team.

ZION: I can see that. Plus, God gave them team rules. They were to **judge** people **fairly**, not **pervert justice**, not **show partiality**, not **accept bribes** and **follow justice** and justice



alone. I wonder if JF, PJ, SP, AB, FJ will help me to remember all of that.

ZAYA: That was quite a few rules that God gave them. I hope that they, unlike you, were paying attention like we learned in our last lesson, especially to the part where they were told to be fair.

ZAYA: I know right because fairness is what justice really is.



This week's **Superhero Challenge: "Brace Map!"** Help talk about teamwork. (See Teacher's Guide.)

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what do you think?

What are some of the challenges with being on a team?
 What were the team rules that God gave the priests and officials?

time to create

Go to YouTube Video

time to pray

Dear Lord, thank you for all the people who you use to administer justice to your people.