

Just Leaders

What's It All About?

Eugene's father was a judge in their county's criminal court system. Eugene was fascinated with his father's job. Today was take your child to work day and Eugene was finally old enough to go to work with his dad. He sat in on the court proceedings and listened diligently to each case. By lunchtime, Eugene had tons of questions. In his mind, his dad was special to be able to make decisions over people's lives. "Dad, why do we have judges?" Eugene asked.

"Judges provide guidance and consequences for bad actions," Eugene's father said. "Judges are leaders or officials, such as the president who helps lead the

country and pastors who lead churches. It is our job to help take care of and guide people to follow laws and ensure justice is served when the rules are not followed. When people go astray by committing crimes or just need help or mediation, judges provide them with guidance and/or consequences for their negative actions. In most cases, this deters them from breaking the law and putting themselves and others in danger. It makes for a more peaceful community for everyone."

Eugene sat, thought for a moment, and said, "So, it's like principals and guidance counselors at school. They lead the school and decide punishments when rules are broken. They also act as mediators when students have disputes. It's also like having parents at home who are leaders over the house and enforce rules and consequences."

"Yes, that's right," said Eugene's father. "If there were no leaders enforcing rules and laws, there may be complete chaos, which is dangerous for everyone."

What are some other examples of leaders? How do they help uphold justice or consequences for wrongdoing?



Learning From God

The world today is governed by laws and leaders to ensure that we all remain safe and can live our lives together and peacefully. It is God's will that we put measures in place to maintain peace and order and that our leaders look to Him for guidance when making decisions that impact people, communities, and society.

Deuteronomy 16:18–20; 17:8–13, NIV—Appoint judges and officials for each of your tribes in every town the LORD your God is giving you, and they shall judge the people fairly. **19** Do not pervert justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words

of the innocent. 20 Follow justice and justice alone, so that you may live and possess the land the LORD your God is giving you.

17:8 If cases come before your courts that are too difficult for you to judge—whether bloodshed, lawsuits or assaults—take them to the place the LORD your God will choose. 9 Go to the Levitical priests and to the

judge who is in office at that time. Inquire of them and they will give you the verdict. 10 You must act according to the decisions they give you at the place the LORD will choose. Be careful to do everything they instruct you to do. 11 Act according to whatever they teach you and the decisions they give you. Do not turn aside from what they tell you, to the right or to the left. 12 Anyone who shows contempt for the judge or for the priest who stands ministering there to the LORD your God is to be put to death. You must purge the evil from Israel. 13 All the people will hear and be afraid, and will not be contemptuous again.

What I Have Learned

Review Deuteronomy 16:18–20; 17:8–13. Read the verses below, fill in the missing words on the blanks provided, and label each verse at the end.

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1.	Follow and justice
	so that you may and
	the land the Lord your God is
	you. Deuteronomy::
2.	All the people will and be
	, and will not be
	again. Deuteronomy::
3.	You must according to
	the they give you at the
	the Lord will choose. Be careful
	to do they
	you to do. Deuteronomy::
4.	Do notjustice or show partiality.
	Do not accept a
	for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists
	the of the innocent.
	Deuteronomy::
5.	Appoint and
	for each of your in every town
	the Lord your God is giving you, and they shall
	judge the people Deuteronomy

. Act according to wha	tever they
you and the decision	ns they give you. Do not
	aside from what they tell
you, to the	or to the left.
Deuteronomy	

Keep In Mind

"Appoint judges and officials for each of your tribes in every town the LORD your God is giving you, and they shall judge the people fairly" (Deuteronomy 16:18, NIV).

Choosing What's Best

In Sunday School and Bible class, we are taught to trust God and to do our best to be more Christlike in how we live our lives. We are taught to obey those in authority who want the best for us, such as our parents and our pastors. Take a moment and write down a few things you learned that guided you to live life positively. Did you ever stray or do something wrong? What were your consequences, and who provided the punishment?

Doing My Part

Who do you consider a leader? In the coming week, take some time to speak with two people who you consider to be leaders. Get to know the importance of their job and how they help people. Ask if their faith in God helps them make important decisions.