

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?

How is the Holy Spirit asking you to Step into the Misery and Margins? What area of injustice has broke your heart?

If Jesus is our ultimate model of justice and righteousness then how does your life need to change? What aspects of Jesus' life of justice do you want to see grow in your life?

Have you ever been treated unjustly? How does that shape how you treat others?

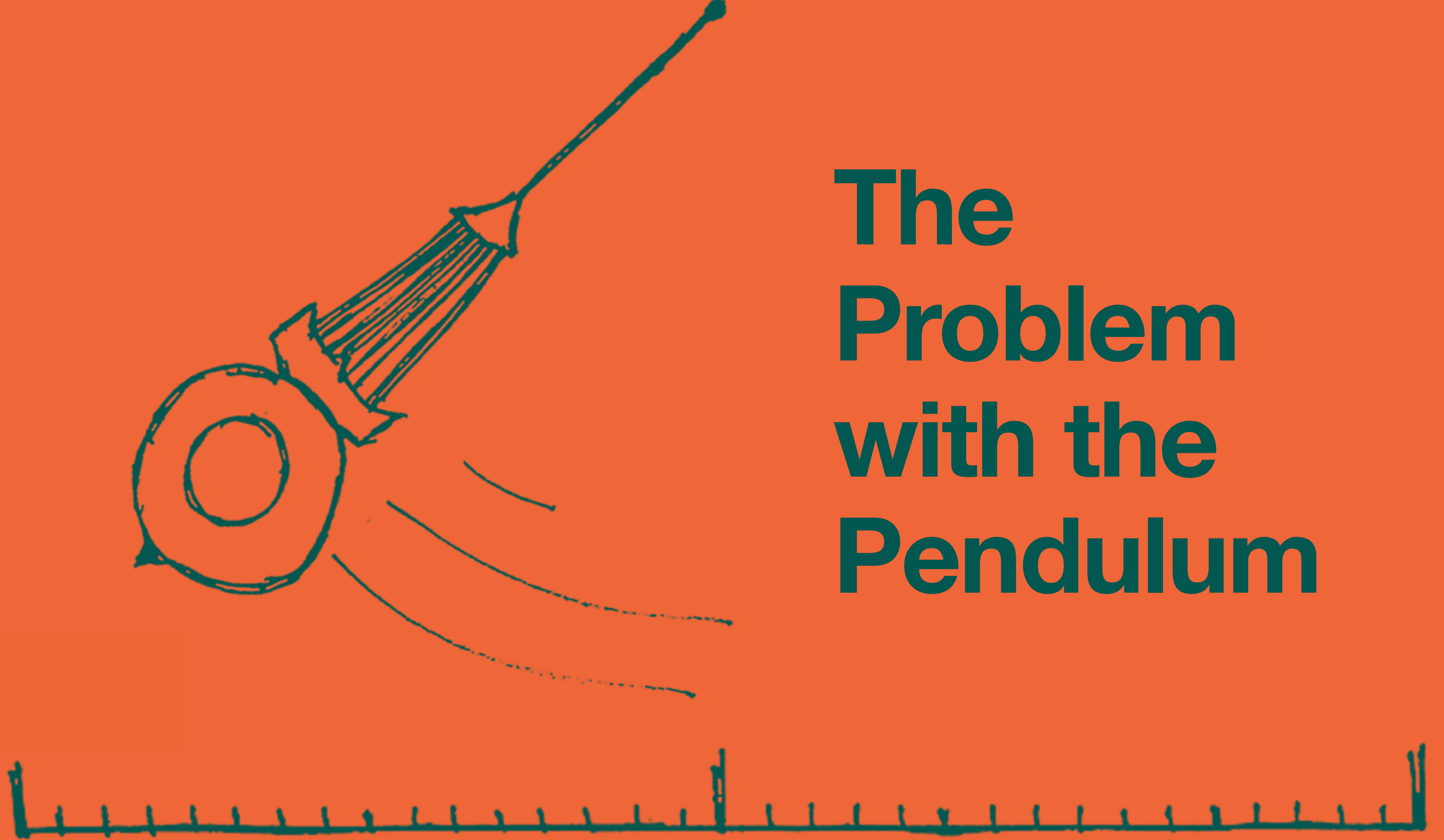
Have there been times when you tried to confront injustice or Step into the Misery and Margins and it backfired or went poorly? How can you continue to pursue love, good works, and compassion knowing you might make mistakes or it might not work out how you want?

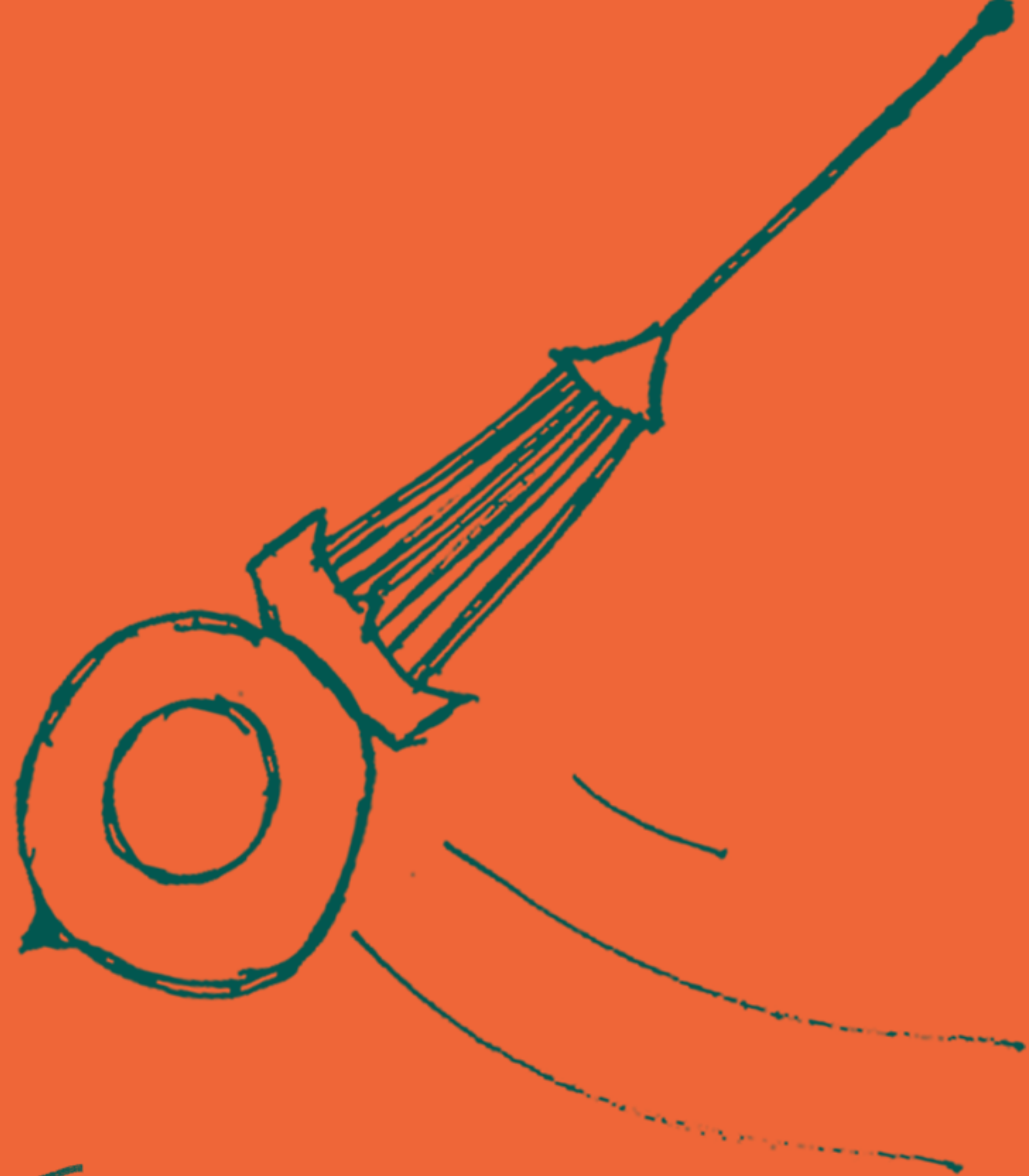
What organizations (or people) in your community do a good job of advocating for others or providing helpful services for those in need? In what ways can you, your family, or group be involved in bringing God's justice and care to those in your area?

STEPPING INTO THE MISERY & MARGINS



The Problem with the Pendulum



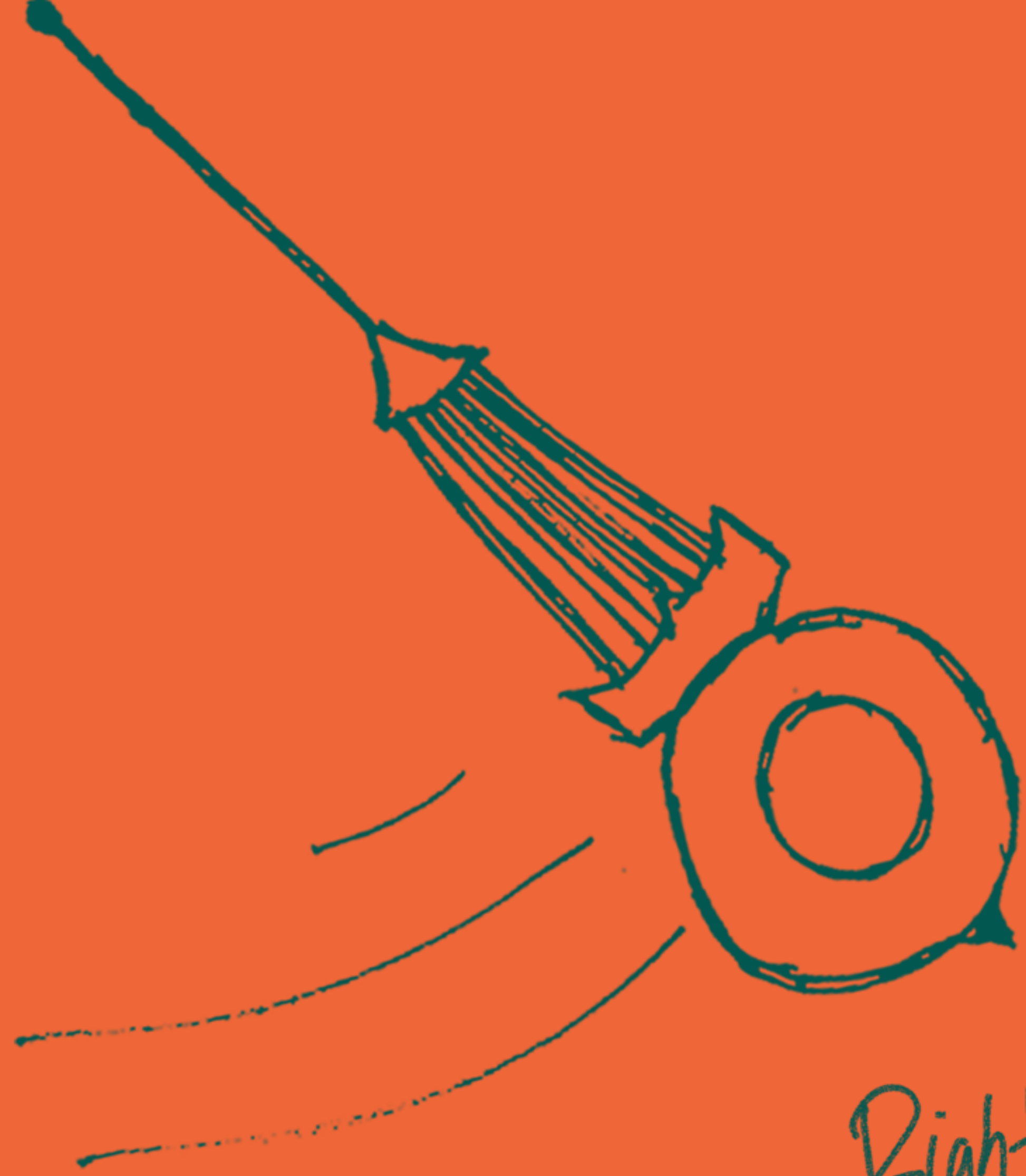


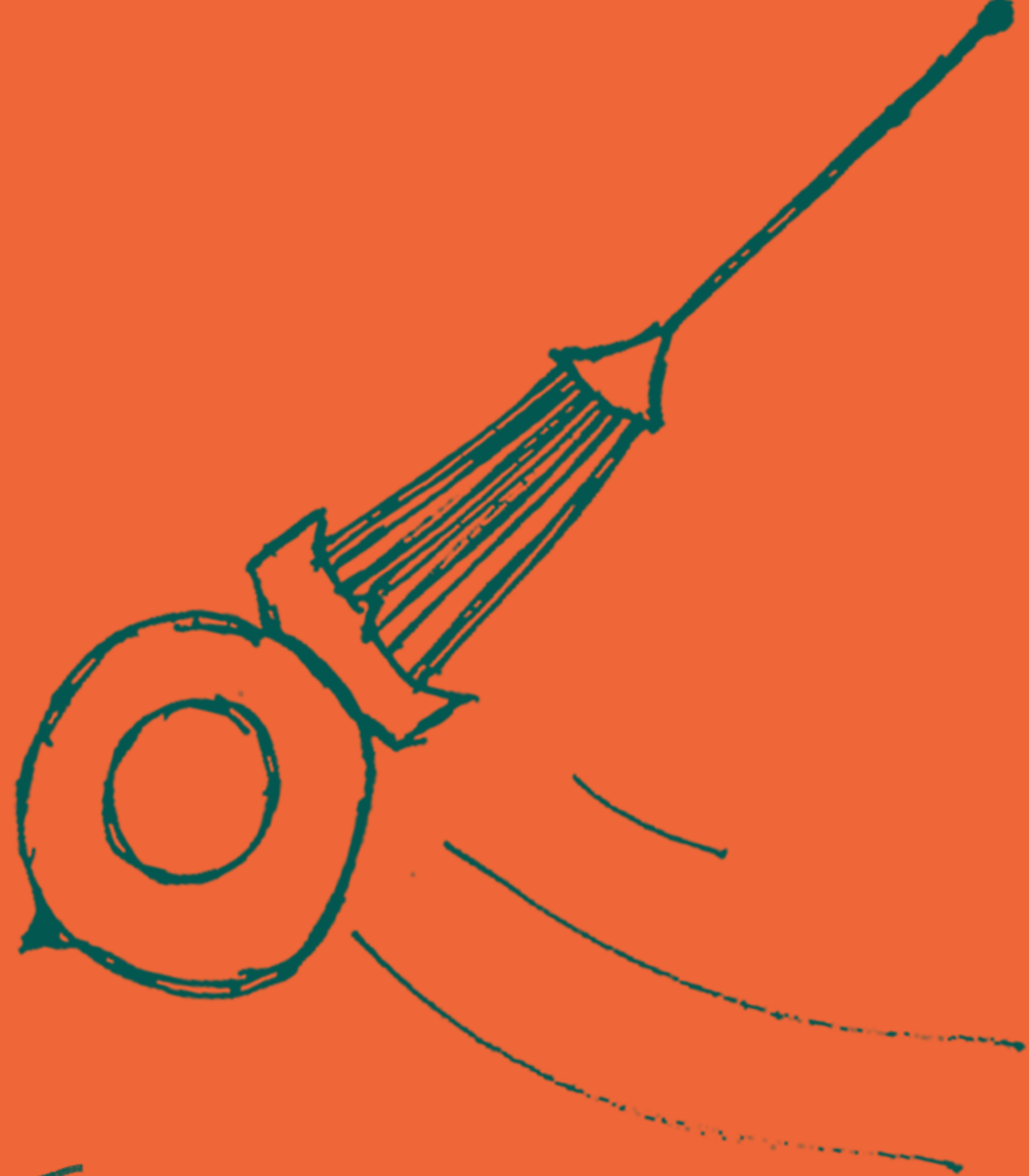
JUSTICE



Justice

Righteousness





JUSTICE

ACTIVE FAITH

ENGAGED

SECULAR

LOVE PEOPLE

LOOKING OUT

OUTREACH

DILUTED

FOCUS ON SOCIETY

SAVED BY WORKS

HUMILITY

CAME TO SERVE

SERVICE

DEEDS



PASSIVE FAITH
ISOLATED SET APART

SACRED

LOVE GOD

LOOKING IN

DISCIPLESHIP

DISTINCT

FOCUS ON SAVIOR

SAVED BY GRACE

PRIDEFUL

CAME TO SAVE

WORSHIP

FAITH

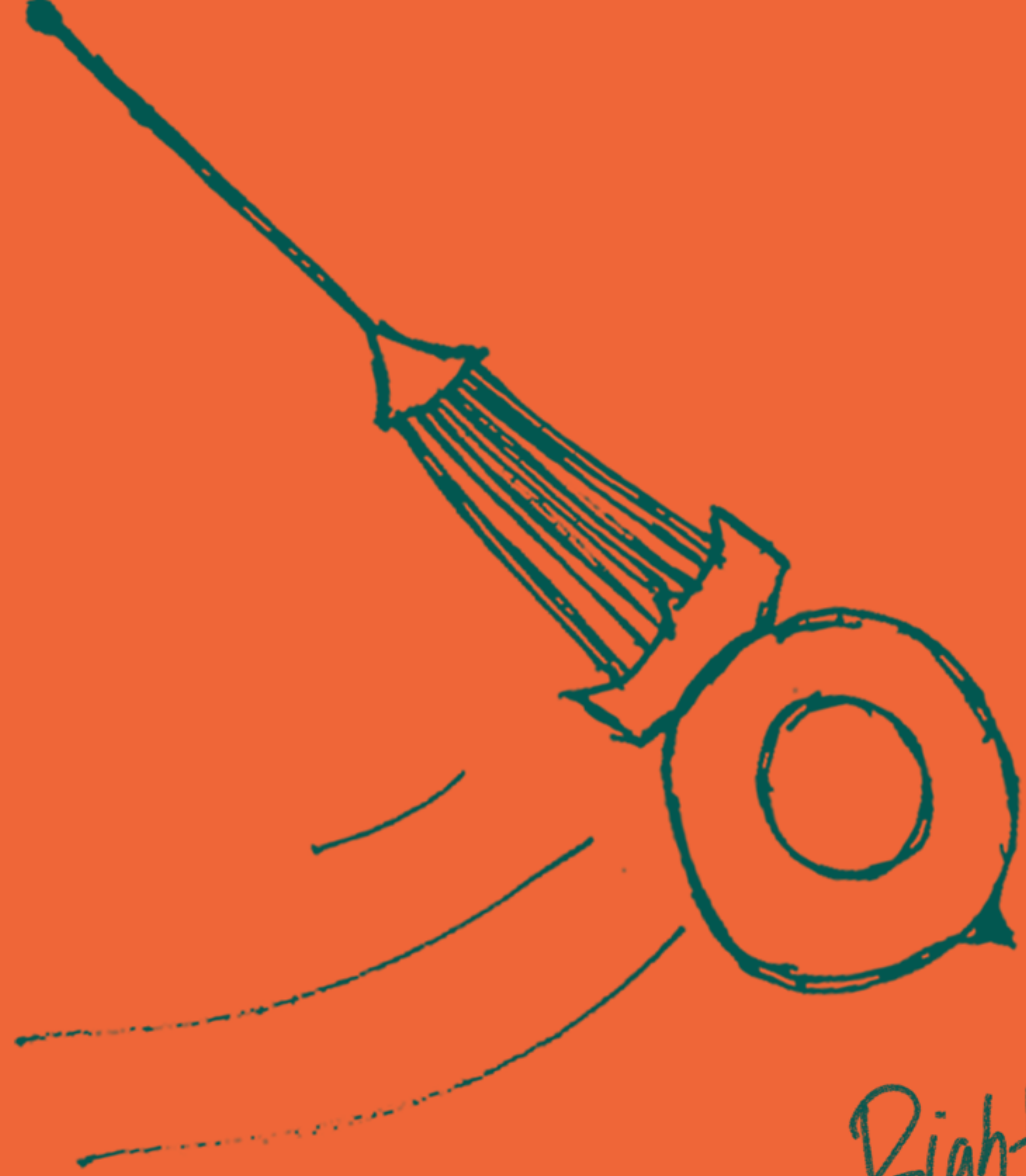


Righteousness



Justice

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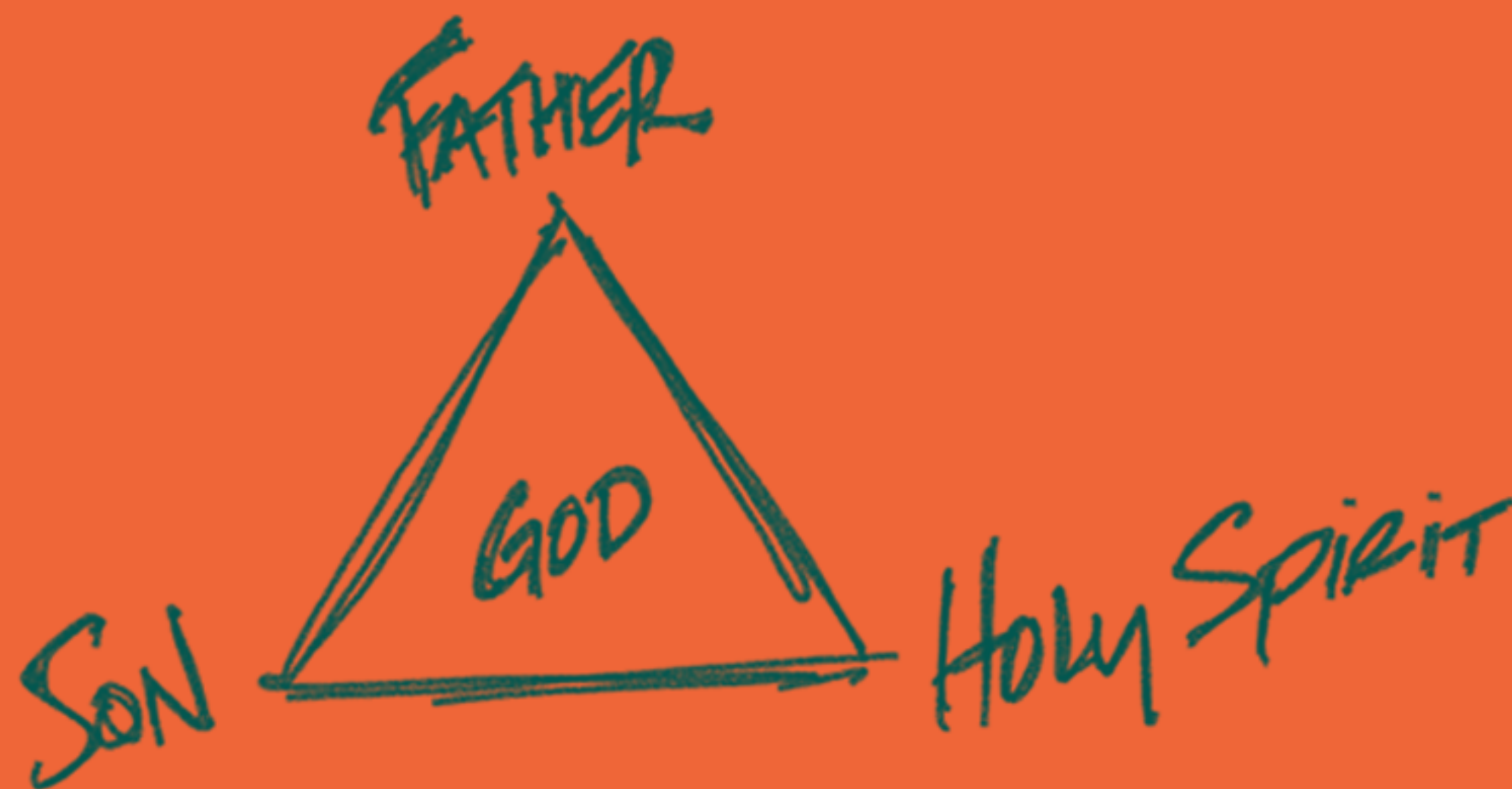
Justice

Righteousness



Justice

Righteousness



STEPPING INTO THE MISERY & MARGINS



Justice and Righteousness are central, foundational, and essential to the Kingdom of God.

**Stepping into the Misery and
Margins flows from Living, Dying,
Aligning, and Breathing.**

Stepping into the misery and margins is more than awareness or advocacy, its about associating, sharing life, and rescuing those who have been ignored and victimized by this cruel world. We show love and compassion in practical ways and share the gospel boldly in order to heal the sick and set the captives free.

BIBLICAL JUSTICE

JUSTICE IN THE OT

Mishpat, or divine justice, refers to the execution of God's righteous standards. Its most basic meaning is to treat people with no partiality, whether punishment, protection, or care. Advocate for the vulnerable

Tzadeqah (root: tzedeq) the quality or state of mind of being just, morally upright or without sin (righteous one). It also refers to day-to-day living in which a person conducts all relationships in family and society with fairness and generosity.

STEPPING INTO THE MISERY & MARGINS



DEUTERONOMY 10:17,18

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing.

DEUTERONOMY 16:20

Pursue justice and justice alone, so that you will live and possess the land the Lord your God is giving you.

JEREMIAH 9:23,24

This is what the Lord says: “Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the Lord.

JUSTICE IN THE NT

dikaíosuné, δικαιοσύνη (dik-ah-yos-oo'-nay)

Appears over two hundred times. Dikaíosuné has many meanings and connotations, including the observation of right laws, keeping the commandments of God, being virtuous, righteousness or justice.

STEPPING INTO THE MISERY & MARGINS



MATTHEW 5:6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

It becomes evident that those who would translate Dikaiosune as “Righteousness” might be “spiritualizing” the notion with ideas about justification that arose 1400 years after the gospel was written.

It also tends to evoke narrowly individualistic version of sin and justification that is often the focus of post-reformation interpreters (both protestant and catholic) obscuring the communal concerns with God’s justice and demand for moral rightness...that are central to early Judaism and Christianity.

- Mary Rose D’Angelo, PhD

MATTHEW 5:6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness
[and justice], for they will be filled.

J. Alec Motyer: Defines “righteousness” as those
“right with God and therefore committed to putting
right all other relationships in life”

MATTHEW 6:33

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

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STEPPING INTO THE MISERY & MARGINS



A WORKING DEFINITION OF BIBLICAL JUSTICE

- **Justice is the expression of *God's righteousness through right action***

A WORKING DEFINITION OF BIBLICAL JUSTICE

- **Justice is the expression of *God's righteousness through right action***
- ***Justice is restoring shalom (peace) where it is broken***

Shalom (peace) is the way things “ought” to be; between you and God, you and others, you and the earth and you internally.

NUMBERS 6:24-26

“““The Lord bless you
and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace (shalom).””

PEACE: εἰρήνη (eirēnē) 'peace'

“Having been justified by faith, we have peace (eirēnē) with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:1

“Peace (eirēnē) I leave with you, my peace (eirēnē) I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.” John 14:27

**“Your faith has healed you, go in peace (eirēnē).”
Mark 5:34, Luke 7:50, Luke 8:48**

THE FATHER'S HEART

PSALM 89:14

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you.

PSALM 33:4,5

For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.

STEPPING INTO THE MISERY & MARGINS



2 SAMUEL 23:1-5

These are the last words of David:

The declaration of David son of Jesse,
the declaration of the man raised on high,
the one anointed by the God of Jacob.

This is the most delightful of Israel's songs.

The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me,
his word was on my tongue.

2 SAMUEL 23:1-5

The God of Israel spoke;
the Rock of Israel said to me,
“The one who rules the people with justice,
who rules in the fear of God,
is like the morning light when the sun rises
on a cloudless morning,
the glisten of rain on sprouting grass.”

2 SAMUEL 23:1-5

Is it not true my house is with God?

For he has established a permanent covenant with me,
ordered and secured in every detail.

Will he not bring about
my whole salvation and my every desire?

1 CHRONICLES 18:14

So David reigned over all Israel, administering justice and righteousness for all his people.

JEREMIAH 23:5,6

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’”

JESUS' MISSION

STEPPING INTO THE MISERY & MARGINS



LUKE 4:18,19

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

MATTHEW 20:29-34

As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. There were two blind men sitting by the road. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they cried out, “Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!” The crowd demanded that they keep quiet, but they cried out all the more, “Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!”

MATTHEW 20:29-34

Jesus stopped, called them, and said, “What do you want me to do for you?”

“Lord,” they said to him, “open our eyes.” Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they could see, and they followed him.

HUMILITY



PROXIMITY



INTENTIONALITY



SPIRIT'S EMPOWERMENT

STEPPING INTO THE MISERY & MARGINS

