

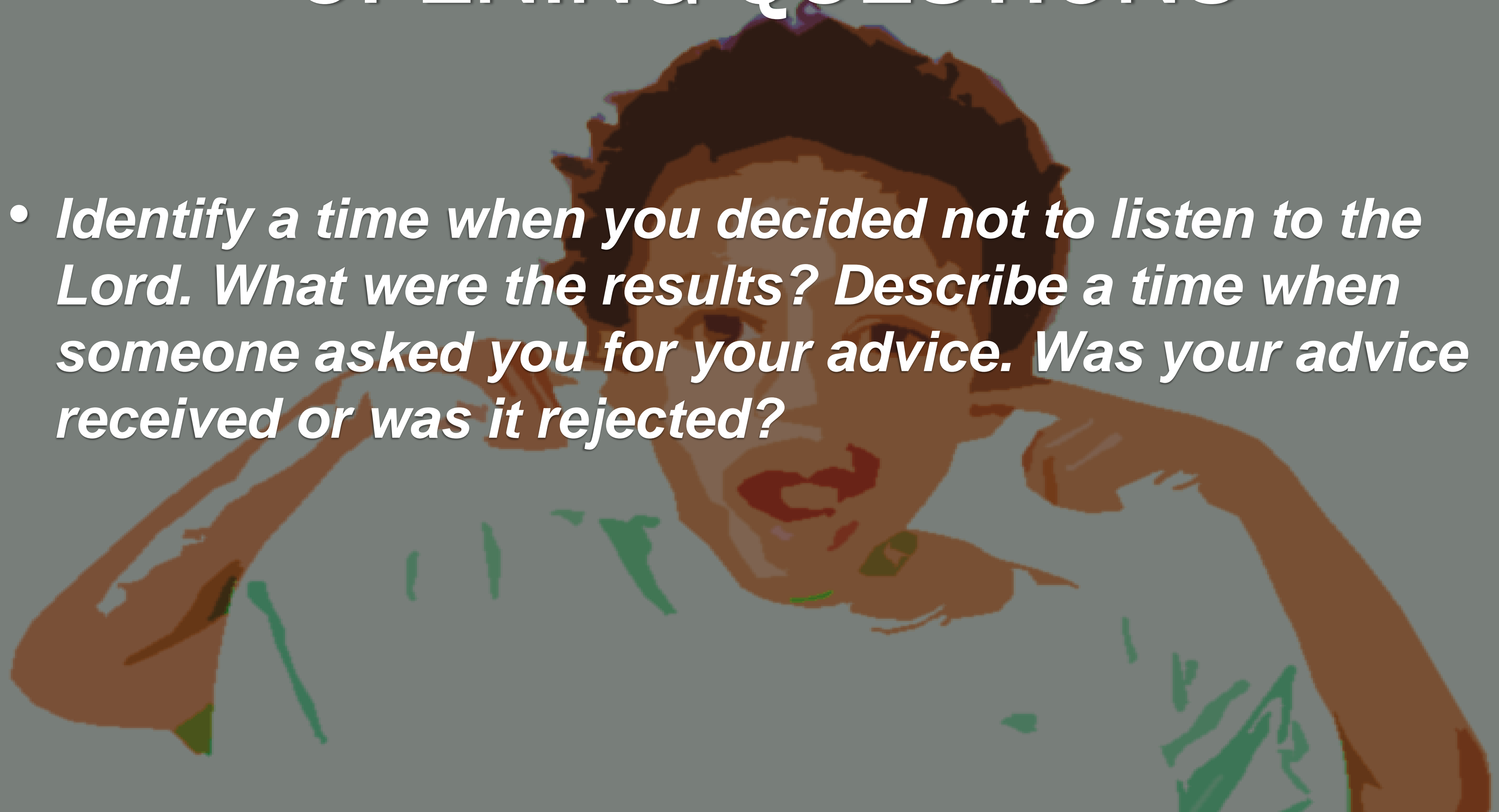
Practice Justice

March Quarter
Lesson 12



OPENING QUESTIONS

- *Identify a time when you decided not to listen to the Lord. What were the results? Describe a time when someone asked you for your advice. Was your advice received or was it rejected?*



Jeremiah 21:8-10

- **Jeremiah 21:8** “Tell all the people, ‘This is what the LORD says: Take your choice of life or death!
- **9** Everyone who stays in Jerusalem will die from war, famine, or disease, but those who go out and surrender to the Babylonians will live. Their reward will be life!
- **10** For I have decided to bring disaster and not good upon this city, says the LORD. It will be handed over to the king of Babylon, and he will reduce it to ashes.’

Jeremiah 21:11-14

- **11** Say to the royal family of Judah, ‘Listen to this message from the LORD!
- **12** This is what the LORD says to the dynasty of David: Give justice each morning to the people you judge! Help those who have been robbed; rescue them from their oppressors. Otherwise, my anger will burn like an unquenchable fire because of all your sins.
- **13** I will personally fight against the people in Jerusalem, that mighty fortress—the people who boast, “No one can touch us here. No one can break in here.”
- **14** And I myself will punish you for your sinfulness, says the LORD. I will light a fire in your forests that will burn up everything around you.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **The Lord stands squarely against those who oppress. However, the Babylonians are also oppressive and employ imperial domination.**
- **What does the Lord's use of the Babylonians indicate to us about the Lord's commitment to justice?**
- **In what way is the Babylonian destruction of Judah a part of the same system of violence that the Jerusalem elite perpetuated against the poor and marginalized?**
- **How does violent imagery function to compel God's people to actively resist injustice?**

APPLICATION FOR ACTIVATION

What people's pain do you feel the most? Is it children, the elderly, the homeless, immigrants, the poor, victims of racial or gender discrimination, the falsely incarcerated, the over-policed, those affected directly by climate change?

- Find one way to stand on their side, which is to stand on God's side. Perhaps it can be through donating to an organization that deals with those issues. Perhaps it is volunteering. Perhaps it is to boycott a restaurant that uses discriminatory hiring practices. Perhaps it is to protest a store that uses problematic images in its marketing materials.**
- Take an issue that is close to you and choose to stand with those people and God.**