**Leader Copy | Uphold the Cause | March 22, 2017**

**Creational Text – Large Group**

 **Intro video**

 We've studied a lot of psalms this year and talked a lot about OUR feeling and emotions. Today we are going to be focusing on OTHERS and about how we can care for those in need. Sometimes we call this Social Justice. Explore Psalm 82 with your small group.

**Creational Text – Small Group**

How are our neighbors struggling? What needs do they have? Make list of needs people might have here in West Michigan and around the world.

 West Michigan Around the World

**Scriptural Text – Small Group**

**Psalm 82: 1-4**

1 God presides in the great assembly;

 he renders judgment among the “gods”:

2 “How long will you defend the unjust

 and show partiality to the wicked?

3 Defend the weak and the fatherless;

 uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.

4 Rescue the weak and the needy;

 deliver them from the hand of the wicked."

 Imagine this psalm as a the script of a movie. Describe what's happening in this scene.

 Who are the "gods" God judges? You could think about "gods" at the time the psalm was written or "gods" today.

What does God command?

 In what ways can we do that with…

 A special effort or project: In everyday life:

**Connections – Small Group**

* In what ways have you helped others? What was it like?
* Why can serving others sometimes be a challenge?
* How can we encourage each other and do more for the cause of social justice?

 Prayer - Ask for any prayer requests and pray together.