

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Do Something / Week 1

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Before you do something about injustice, you have to see it.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:34-39 NIV

Matthew 25:40 NIV

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students begin to recognize and learn about injustices happening in the world around them.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Remember this week that you're laying a foundation and framework for middle schoolers to use when looking at the world around them for years to come. While some may know about or be able to recognize major injustices

happening in the world (things like poverty, hunger, abuse, etc.), others may not know that these things are even happening. And injustices that they may be seeing or experiencing? Things like bullying, racism, and discrimination? They may know that they're happening, but they might not know that they fall under the category of injustice. Be sensitive to what your students recognize and understand and what they may just be learning for the first time this week. And of course, keep in mind that you may have students experiencing and living in real injustice every single day. If you do, be careful to choose examples that don't make them feel singled out or embarrassed by what they've experienced or are living in right now.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here.

DURING GROUP

HELPFUL DEFINITIONS:

Justice is something that's fair, right, or equal. **Injustice** is the opposite: something that's unfair, unequal, or not right.

DISCUSS THIS

- When you hear the word "injustice," what comes to mind? (*Small Group Leader: You may want to refer to the definitions of justice and injustice used in this series to guide this discussion.*)
- What's one example of an injustice a middle schooler might see or experience...
 - At home?
 - At school?
 - In their friend group?
 - In their community?
 - On TV or social media?
- How does it feel to see someone experience an injustice?
- Why do you think it's important that we learn to see the injustices happening around us?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE) 1

Hand out a sticky note to each student and ask them to write down an injustice they want to learn more about. Together, everyone will decide on one injustice to look into further as a group. On a poster board or large sheet of paper, write down these questions and have your few brainstorm their answers.

"What do I know?"

"What do I wonder?"

"What do I hope to learn?"

Use the resource sheet provided by your Ministry Leader to help your group think about organizations that your church partners with locally or globally that may align with the injustice they selected

- Based on the questions you brainstormed, what's one thing you're going to do to find out more about this injustice?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE) 2

Give out the provided item that says "LEARN" and ask students to use it as a reminder to not only learn more about the injustice your group selected, but also to continue to be curious and learn more when it comes to injustices in the world.