

SMALL  GROUP

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

One Step / Week 2

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

You don't have to face injustice alone.

SCRIPTURE

Daniel 3:24-27 NLT

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To show students who are experiencing injustice that they aren't alone and to encourage everyone to step in and move toward justice for those who need it.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Most middle schoolers see the world through a polarizing lens. For them, most things fall into two categories: fair and unfair. That can make a conversation about experiencing injustice tricky in this phase. Some may consider not being allowed to date, not having a phone, or being punished by a parent or adult to be very real injustices simply because they feel unfair. Though you want to redirect the conversation toward more pervasive and bigger injustices, be careful not to shut down what feels very real to your students. Be prepared to have students open up about difficult injustices they've experienced already, like racism, poverty, abuse, and more. If students do share, choose your response carefully. Be quick to thank them for sharing and acknowledge the courage it took to open up. Affirm that what they're experiencing isn't right, and consider how you can support them through it. Create a safe space for your group by handling the emotions and experiences shared in a healthy, safe way. Remember that if something is shared that brings to light a dangerous or harmful situation take it to your Ministry Leader for further help and action as soon as possible.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the content as needed, and don't feel you need to complete everything listed.

DURING GROUP

DISCUSS THIS

1. On a scale from 1-10, how comfortable do you feel talking about an injustice you or someone else has experienced?
2. What's one example of an injustice you've seen or experienced in our community?
3. Why do you think injustices like these keep happening?
4. How does it feel to know that you're not left alone in what you're experiencing?
5. When you face injustice, what is one way you could feel supported by. . .
 - a. Your friends?
 - b. Your family?
 - c. God?
 - d. This small group?
 - e. Other activists?
6. What might change about the injustices we see or experience if more people step up to help?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE 1)

Get out the poster board you used last week; remove any leftover sticky notes. (If you're using a new poster board, divide it into three columns. At the top of the left column, write "Small Step," in the middle column, "Next Step," and in the right column, "Big Step.") Pass out sticky notes to your students, ask them to write down ideas for each step based on this week's conversation, and then stick their notes on the poster board. Consider saying something like, *"Think about injustices you've experienced and write down ways a middle schooler could take a small step, next step, and big step that could help them feel not alone in the injustice. If you haven't experienced injustice, write down steps for how you can care for someone who has."* When everyone is done, prompt them to read through the sticky notes and select one thing they'll do this week to step toward justice and a better tomorrow.

TIP: Save the poster board for next week. You'll use it again!
