

SMALL  GROUP

# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

One Step / Week 4

## BEFORE GROUP

### BOTTOM LINE

Keep moving toward justice.

### SCRIPTURE

*Galatians 6:9-10a NIV*

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students recognize the work of justice isn't a one-time thing and to inspire them to keep moving toward justice, one step at a time.

### THINK ABOUT THIS

The weariness that comes with working toward justice is real. It's the reason so many give up or step out of the work after days, months, or even years. And it's something that your middle schoolers may experience, too. It's important this week to encourage them to keep going! Help them see that the work toward justice isn't a box they check once a year and move on. It's an ongoing process that God calls them to be a part of for the rest of their lives. Do your best to acknowledge how big and daunting that can feel, but also how cool and inspiring it can be to join in the work that God has been doing through others to right wrongs in the world around them. Remind them that joining the movement toward justice is a choice. God is already working toward justice whether we decide to join in or not. Challenge your group to have the courage to choose to get into the work alongside those who have been doing it for years. And, of course, alongside God, who calls us to join in and stay in the movement toward justice for the rest of our lives.

*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. Tell us about someone you've seen or know about who is working toward justice right now. (This could even be you!)
2. What might've happened had that person gotten weary and given up the work?
3. What's one reason someone might want to give up on moving toward justice?
4. What's one thing that might motivate a middle schooler to keep going?

### 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 ideas for each step based on this week's conversation, and then stick them on the poster board. In the "Small Step" column, ask students to write down what unique gifts they can use to step into the work of justice. In the "Next Step" column, have them brainstorm ways they can use the gift they've identified to keep moving toward justice. Finally, in the "Big Step" column, ask your students to write down ways they can keep going and not get discouraged or weary in the work of justice. When everyone is done, prompt them to read through the sticky notes and select one thing they'll do this week to step towards justice and keep working toward a better tomorrow.

5. What's one thing we talked about in this series that you don't want to forget?