

STUMMIN

SMALL GROUP
LEADER GUIDE

MIDDLE
SCHOOL
FOCUS

DO SOMETHING MARCH 3, 2021

Week 1 of a 4-week series
about injustice

BOTTOM LINE

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

SCRIPTURE

*"The King will reply,
'Truly I tell you,
whatever you did for
one of the least of these
brothers and sisters of mine,
you did for me.'"*

- Matthew 25:40 NIV

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students develop
the practical skill of noticing
injustice around them.

>> BEFORE GROUP

THINK ABOUT THIS: This week, you will be 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. And keep in mind that you may have students experiencing 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.

>> DURING GROUP

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.

DISCUSS THIS:

- When you hear the word "injustice," what comes to mind?
- 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:

- Tell your group about an injustice you want to learn more about. Answer the following questions about your chosen topic.
 - "What do I know?"
 - "What do I wonder?"
 - "What do I hope to learn?"
- Ask your group members to pick an injustice they want to learn more about and answer the same questions you just modeled for them.
- Take turns sharing one thing you're going to do to find out more about your chosen injustice.

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THINK ABOUT THIS: Students have a variety of experiences when it comes to injustice. As the leader, it is important that you contextualize this conversation to be beneficial to your students and their unique life experiences. One way to prepare for contextualizing is to read the questions ahead of time and imagine how each student might answer if they were completely honest. Also, imagine what questions or comments might make a student feel singled out or uncomfortable. Perhaps the most important thing you can do this week is create a safe place for every student to be a part of the conversation.

>> DURING GROUP

Create meaningful conversations. Adjust the questions as needed and ask thoughtful follow-up questions as the conversation unfolds. Don't feel like you need to answer every question.

DISCUSS THIS:

- Do you ever wish you had a superpower that could change the world for the better? What "thing" would you like to change? What superpower do you think it would take to accomplish that? Is simply seeing injustice a kind of superpower? Why or why not?
- When you hear the word injustice, what comes to mind?
- What is something you've noticed that is unfair in your community or in your school?
- In large group, we talked about a passage from Matthew where Jesus made the point that there are two groups of people: the group that notices injustice and does something about it and the people who don't. Which group do you normally find yourself in? What do you think keeps us from noticing injustice?
- How can social media help you see injustice? How can it prevent you from seeing injustice?
- What are the injustices you are more likely to notice or do something about? What are the injustices that are harder for you to notice or do something about?
- What is one form of injustice that bothers you? What is one form you wish you knew more about?
- What are some ways you can learn about injustice?
- What do you hope we talk about in this series?

>> AFTER GROUP

In the next few weeks, we'll be talking about what to do when you experience injustice personally, what God is doing about injustice, and how we can join in what God is doing. Be sure to try to follow up with students who ask questions about injustice; however, be mindful you don't have to have all of the answers immediately. It can be healthy to demonstrate curiosity and learning for yourself as well.