



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

And It Was Good / Week 1

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Justice says good isn't good enough.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:41-46 NIV

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students develop and/or strengthen the practical skill of noticing the need for justice around them and encourage them to take steps toward doing good by responding to that need.

THINK ABOUT THIS

In a conversation about justice, it's incredibly important to be mindful of the different perspectives and experiences represented in your group. You know your students best, so you likely know what injustices they may know about, have witnessed, or even are experiencing right now. Keeping the context in which your students live in mind is so important for this conversation. Try to create a space that allows every student in the room to express what they've experienced or how they feel about both justice and injustice. However, be quick to shut down unhealthy comments or unhelpful debates that may arise. We don't want students to unnecessarily argue or offend, but rather to open their eyes to see the need for justice around them in potentially new ways.

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

DURING GROUP

DISCUSS THIS

1. What's one way you can tell if something is good? What about when something isn't good?
2. In your own words, how would you define justice? What about injustice?
3. What questions do you have about the injustice you see in the world?
4. How would you define goodness?
5. What do justice and goodness have to do with each other?
6. How can our response to injustice show others about God's goodness?
7. This week, what's one step you can take to...
 - a. See where justice is needed?
 - b. Learn about injustices others are experiencing?
 - c. Name an injustice when you see it?

TRY THIS

As a small group leader, you're uniquely positioned to partner with the parents and guardians of the students in your group to influence their lives for good. So, make an effort to reach out to the parents or adults your students live with this week. A simple introduction can go a long way in building relationships with parents and guardians and working with them to support, love, and encourage the high schoolers you lead each week.