

# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

## And It Was Good / Week 3

### BEFORE GROUP

#### BOTTOM LINE

Because God is always good, God is always pursuing justice.

#### SCRIPTURE

*Matthew 9:35 NLT*

*Matthew 9:36 NLT*

*Isaiah 61:8a NLT*

*Matthew 9:37 NLT*

*1 Corinthians 12:27 NLT*

#### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students think about and act on ways they can join in God's good work of justice in the world.

#### THINK ABOUT THIS

This conversation invites students to take a deeper look at injustice and consider two things: where God is and where they are in it. For some, asking the first question may be challenging. Your students may not feel comfortable expressing questions and/or doubts about God, or they may feel afraid that asking the question won't give them the answer they want. Remind students that part of growing in faith is being willing to ask difficult questions about the difficult things we see and experience in this world. Not only is God unafraid of those questions, but God is already working to show us the answer through the good work already being done in the world. The second question—where students are in the work for justice—may also be hard to ask. For some, it requires a level of self-awareness to acknowledge the part they are or aren't playing in the work of justice. For others who may be experiencing injustice, asking them to join in may feel impossible or inappropriate, as they're the ones who need someone to join in on their behalf. No matter where your students land with these questions, the goal is to lead them to see two truths more clearly: That God is already doing good work for justice in this world and that we are invited to be a part of it.

*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 types of questions do you have about the injustices you've heard about or experienced?
2. Why do you think questions like these come up when we deal with injustice?
3. What specific questions do you have for God when it comes to injustice?
4. *Upperclassmen Question:* Have you ever felt hesitant to ask these kinds of questions about God? Why or why not?
5. What can we learn about God's heart for justice from Jesus' life and ministry?
6. How does it feel to know you can be a part of God's good plan for justice?
7. What's one step you can take to join in that good work right now as a high schooler?

## TRY THIS

Schedule an event for your small group outside of your regular gathering during this series. As you're navigating a potentially heavy conversation topic during group, it's important to find ways to bring levity and create breathing room for your students. Grabbing a meal together, meeting up for a fun activity, watching a movie, or just getting coffee or dessert together can provide the opportunity for students to connect with each other and with you in a more light-hearted way.

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