

ELCA Move-umentary Study Guide

An Introduction to Social Justice for Youth Group or Confirmation

In July 2009, more than 37,000 high school youth and adults attended the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Youth Gathering in New Orleans, a city still recovering from 2005's Hurricane Katrina. At the Gathering, youth delved further into justice issues through educational activities and on-the-ground service projects. The three minute "Move-umentary for Justice" video showcases youth at the Gathering sharing personal insights, opinions and thoughts about social justice. Hopefully this video and this study guide will inspire fruitful reflection and action in your home community.

This accompanying study guide can be used in four different settings. All groups should begin with the purple introduction, then choose one of the four green sections (*Youth Group: Service Project 5 Minute Follow-Up*, *Jr./Sr. High Youth Group: Intro to Social Justice*, *Sr. High Bible Study: Keep the Fire Burning*, and *Confirmation Lesson: Jesus Justice*) and end with the blue page.

Introduction

What is social justice?

Justice means "being just, impartial or fair." Social refers to our daily lives as we relate to one another. As a concept, social justice combines these words to show our responsibility to treat people fairly and with dignity and respect.

Why do Lutherans care about social justice?

As Lutherans, we believe God wants us to address the needs of the entire world in a fair and loving way. Most of us have running water and so much food that we throw our leftovers away. Is it then fair that some people walk miles to find water and have little access to food? When we help others, share resources with them, and speak with and on behalf of people in need, we do God's work with our hands and create a world where everyone can lead healthy, sustainable lives.

We respond to God's grace when we care and act justly for the well-being of society and the environment. This is the basis of social justice for Lutherans.

FOR EVERYONE

Choose a Setting

After your youth group service project, share the Move-umentary for Justice and facilitate a short discussion

Discussion Questions

1. Who did you serve today?
2. How did your service project relate to this video?
3. Did you realize that your church is involved in this sort of work?
4. What have you learned from your service today?
5. Would you like to serve again in the future? Brainstorm five ideas for your next project.

YOUTH GROUP: SERVICE PROJECT
5 MINUTE FOLLOW-UP

Theme Verses: Mark 12:29-31

Post-Video Discussion Questions

1. In the video, which blurb, photo or video segment caught your attention? How? Why?
2. Can you think of any justice issues in your own community?

Group Experience – Choose an Activity

Activity 1: Make your own Move-umentary

Split your group into teams of 3 or 4 and have students create short skits where they pretend to film their own move-umentary and see what sorts of injustices they portray. Have them act out what they would film in their community that represents social justice. Encourage participants to think about both sides of social justice, for example a homeless youth and the shelter where they sleep. Another way to think of this might be what is “fair” or “unfair” in their community.

Idea starters: Food banks, after-school programs and shelters are all examples of social justice in action. What other sorts of programs can students think of?

*Some groups may want to film an actual move-umentary for their community. Consider using this to raise awareness of social justice issues in your congregation.

Activity 2: Four Square

One of the activities youth took part in at the Gathering was an updated and socially conscious version of the classic playground favorite, “Four Square.” This is a great option for an outdoor activity. Find directions at www.elca.org/hunger/resources.

Activity 3: Write your Congressperson

Get involved in the advocacy work of your church. Visit www.elca.org/advocacy to learn about current ELCA Advocacy campaigns and how you can be involved.

Reflection – Questions

1. Do you know people who are living out their faith through social justice?
2. How would you like to be a part of the change? Brainstorm five ideas for ways to get involved in your community.

JR/SR HIGH YOUTH GROUP: INTRO TO SOCIAL JUSTICE

Theme Verse: Matthew 25:40

Post-Video Discussion Questions

1. Which part of the video stood out to you?
2. How do you relate your faith as a Christian to social justice?
3. Can you think of any instances of social justice in the Bible?

Group Experience – Bible Study

Have students read the following passages aloud:

- Old Testament – A just and peaceful world
 - ✓ The Mountain of the Lord – Isaiah 2:3-5
- New Testament – Teachings on helping others
 - ✓ Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand – Matthew 14:13-21
 - ✓ The Parable of the Good Samaritan – Luke 10:25-37
- New Testament – Remembering our common equality
 - ✓ Judging Others – Luke 6:37-42

Reflection – Questions

1. How do these stories relate to social justice?
2. Which words from the reading in Isaiah stuck out to you?
3. What can you learn from Jesus' words?
4. How can you get involved in social justice work in your community? Brainstorm five ideas.

SR HIGH BIBLE STUDY: KEEP THE FIRE BURNING

Theme Verse: Micah 6:8

Post-Video Discussion Questions

1. In the video, which blurb, photo or video segment caught your attention? How? Why?
2. Can you think of any examples in the Bible where people received help or helped others?

Group Experience – Reading Together

The following are both stories about the good things that Jesus did, as well as lessons about how we should act.

- Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand – Matthew 14: 13-21
- The Parable of the Good Samaritan – Luke 10: 25-37
- Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind – John 9: 1-12

Act it Out

Split into groups and act out one of these stories. Make them your own by changing the setting and the titles of the characters. You might think about what the stories would look like at school, soccer practice or as a TV program or sitcom.

Reflection – Questions

- After acting out Bibles stories and watching the video clip, what does the theme verse, Micah 6:8, mean to you now?
- Do you know people who are living out their faith through social justice? What are they doing?
- Would you like to be a part of the change? Who would you like to help? Brainstorm five ideas.

CONFIRMATION LESSON: JESUS JUSTICE

What is Your Church Doing?

The ELCA is engaged in social justice work in a variety of ways through congregations, synods and the churchwide organization. Learn more about ways you can be involved by visiting:

ELCA Advocacy (www.elca.org/advocacy)

ELCA World Hunger (www.elca.org/hunger)

ELCA Disaster Response (www.elca.org/disaster)

Lutheran Services in America (www.lutheranservices.org)

Justice for Women (www.elca.org/justiceforwomen)

Poverty Ministries (www.elca.org/povertyministries)

Social Issues (www.elca.org/socialissues)

Get involved today! Text JUSTICE to 464329*

- Advocate – start a student advocacy team, learn more at www.elca.org/advocacy, click “Get Involved”
- Fundraise – set a goal, for example the cost of one cow, as an amount of money to raise for ELCA World Hunger by the end of the school year, check out www.elca.org/hunger/barnyard
- Lead activities in your community – Do you like the games Four Square and Corn Hole? Check out www.elca.org/hunger/resources for a fun way to teach others about social justice issues
- Use one of the ELCA Hunger Education Toolkits (www.elca.org/hunger/toolkits) to learn more about the work of ELCA World Hunger and then host an event with your congregation, campus, or community to raise funds for the ELCA’s anti-hunger/anti-poverty efforts
- Learn – Follow ELCA Advocacy on Twitter (twitter.com/ELCAadvocacy), subscribe to the ELCA World Hunger blog, Hunger Rumbblings (blogs.elca.org/hungerrumbblings), or become a fan of ELCA Justice Town on Facebook (facebook.com/ELCAjusticetown).
- Pray together – Start a weekly prayer group where you meet to talk about social justice issues and pray for change
- Volunteer – Find places like food banks and after-school programs in your community where you can volunteer, or join your youth group for various service projects throughout the year

*Free SMS service is available on most carriers. Standard/Other messaging rates may apply.
Reply STOP to unsubscribe. For more information, please visit mGive.com/e

FOR EVERYONE

Pray Together

End the session with a prayer. Encourage students to choose a social justice issue to pray for (i.e. peace in the Middle East, youth homelessness, hunger, environment, etc.). Go around in a circle, squeezing hands to move on as they offer their prayers out loud.

FOR EVERYONE