

God's Story + Our Story: a call to Advocacy

This workshop will help participants connect their stories, with values, and the call of our faith to be advocates of justice in the world.

Getting Started: 4 minutes

In partners, share your earliest memory of an injustice you stood up against. It can be something small! Advocacy is having a voice for big issues like caring for creation, immigration injustice, human trafficking, and awareness of hunger and poverty. Being an advocate is something we live out day-to-day and it shows up in many different ways. We have learning moments all the time, and smaller stories can highlight issues we ought to care about. Having a strong connection with God, rooted in scripture, can help us recognize the values of our faith and where there is discrepancy or even injustice with this in our world today. For example, so clearly in scripture Jesus makes sure all are fed and all are welcome at the tables he eats at. He often eats with the poor and marginalized in his society. In our current context, there are people who are starving or do not have access to nutritious food. We can recognize the difference here and advocate for justice related to hunger-caused issues as well for ways to make food access equitable. Our faith ought to be active and working in the world. Advocacy is a great way to get started.

Centering on God's Story: 10 minutes

- What are some examples of justice in the Bible?
- What are some things we learn through scripture about what God hopes for humanity and creation?
- Are there verses that you deeply connect with in terms of your call to 'be' in the world?
 - Write one of these verses on your paper. *you may need to have some examples ready to go

Connecting with our Story: 40 minutes

You will need: paper(2 sheets for each participant), coloring medium of your choosing: crayons, markers, pencils, etc

Overview:

- With the scripture you chose, we will reflect on one moment from your life which profoundly reshaped your world-view and laid the groundwork for your call to advocacy.

Activity:

- Have participants individually reflect on the following: What is **one learning moment** where injustice or privilege were highlighted in your life?

-Draw a picture of each of these moments, and consider what about the experience was profound, uncomfortable, upsetting, or new.

-Use color, shapes, and symbols to express what happened and how each of these moments impacted you.

Consider:

-How did you respond? Did it lead to growth or a call to something new? Add this to your drawings.

-What bigger issue did this highlight: try to connect your two learning moments with a human rights issue.

-What did it call you towards? Did this change the course of how you 'are' in the world? What did this teach you as an advocate?

-How does this connect or disconnect from the scripture you chose?

In Small Groups:

-Take turns sharing one of your stories, as well as the scripture. Reflect together on the societal or human rights issues this connects with and how you are called to be advocates for these causes because of your stories

Wrapping Up: 2 minutes

-Close in prayer: giving thanks for learning moments, stories, and the call towards God's story