

GOD'S STORY + OUR STORY: A CALL TO ADVOCACY

Group activity developed by the
Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin



OVERVIEW: This exercise will help participants connect their stories with values and the call of our faith to be advocates of justice in the world. Moments in our lives and Christian teachings profoundly shape/reshape our worldview and lay the groundwork for advocacy action. Includes artistic expression and small group activity.

DURATION: 56 minutes

4 min.	SECTION 1: GETTING STARTED	SETUP: Pairs and group discussion
<p>SETUP: Pairs</p> <p>DISCUSSION PROMPT: Share your earliest memory of an injustice you stood up against. It can be something small!</p>		
<p>SETUP: Regroup and reflect</p> <p>Advocacy shows up in many different ways. It can be centered on big issues – like caring for creation, immigration justice, human trafficking prevention, and ending hunger and poverty. But being an advocate often starts from how we live out day-to-day.</p> <p>Our faith values, disciplined in our connections with God and Christian community and rooted in Scripture, may draw us to recognize discrepancies or even injustices in our world today.</p> <p><i>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 differences between what we value and what's happening and advocate for justice related to hunger-caused issues as well as for ways to make food access more equitable.</i></p> <p>Our faith calls us to be active and engaged in the world. Advocacy is a great way to get started.</p>		
10 min.	SECTION 2: CENTERING ON GOD'S STORY	SETUP: Group discussion & notation PREP: 2 sheets of paper per person & something to draw with LEADER NOTE: May want to have examples ready-to-go.
<p>SETUP: Group Discussion</p> <p>DISCUSSION PROMPTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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? 		
<p>SETUP: Personal Connection with Bible Verse</p> <p>PERSONAL REFLECTION PROMPT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there Bible verses you deeply connect with you – in terms of how you think you are called to 'be' in the world? • Write one of these verses on a piece of paper. 		

40 min.	SECTION 3: CONNECTING WITH OUR STORY	SETUP: Personal reflection, drawing, regroup, pairs PREP: Same as Section 2
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SETUP: Personal Reflection & Drawing

REFLECTION PROMPT:

- What is one or more learning moment where injustice or privilege were highlighted in your life?
- What about the experience was profound, uncomfortable, upsetting, or new?
- (Perhaps after drawing begins.) How did you respond? Did it lead to growth or a call to something new?

ACTIVITY:

- Draw a picture of the learning moment(s).
- Use color, shapes, and symbols to express what happened and how each of these moments impacted you.
- Add to your drawings how you responded.

SETUP: Regroup

DISCUSSION PROMPTS:

- What bigger issue did your learning moment highlight? Try to connect your learning moments with a human rights issue.
- What does your learning moment call you towards? Did it change the course of how you “are” in the world? Did it teach you as an advocate?
- How does this connect or disconnect from the Scripture passage you chose?

SETUP: Small Group

Take turns sharing one of your stories, as well as the Scripture passage. Reflect together on the societal or human rights issue they connect with, and how you are called to be advocates for these causes because of your stories.

2 min.	SECTION 4: WRAPPING UP	SETUP: Prayer together
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SETUP: Regroup

- CLOSING PRAYER: Give thanks for learning moments, stories, and the call towards God’s story.



Advocacy

This exercise was organized by the Rev. Kelsey Johnson, ELCA Hunger Advocacy Fellow in the 2018–19 cycle with the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin: LOPPW.ORG
It is similar to ELCA Advocacy presentations reflecting on “God’s Story | Your Story | My Story” and the intertwining of these in faith-based advocacy.

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