

Scope + Sequence: Social Justice Spotlight Middle School

Students examine the difference between equity and equality, explore the role of empathy in authentically acknowledging others, and build meaningful connections. They then translate these insights into consistent, practical actions that promote social justice within their communities.

Lesson name	Lesson Summary	Students will Examine	Take Action "Before our next ThinkGive"	Themes
Introduction	In this lesson, students define social justice and discuss real-life examples. They explore how kind actions and social justice actions are similar and different, and reflect on ways they can take action to promote fairness, equality, and inclusion in their communities.	- The meaning of social justice. - How social justice actions differ from kind actions. - How small, consistent actions can create meaningful change.	<i>Pay attention to acts of fairness and equality around you—or take one yourself! Even small actions can help build a more just and inclusive community.</i>	Responsible decision-making: Advocacy Responsible decision-making: Critical thinking Self-management: Risk-taking
Meet Others Where They're At	This lesson helps students understand the difference between equality and equity. Students learn that treating everyone the same is not always helpful because individuals and communities have unique needs. Communities move toward social justice when everyone receives what they need to succeed.	- The difference between equality and equity. - How equality can sometimes be unhelpful or even harmful. - How equitable actions contribute to social justice.	<i>Take action to meet someone where they're at—offering support that fits their unique needs and preferences. Think about how you can adjust your approach so the person feels heard, valued, and included.</i>	Social awareness: Empathy Responsible decision-making: Advocacy Responsible decision-making: Critical thinking
Local Community Care: Giving and Receiving	This lesson shows how working together can make a big difference. Students explore their connections to their communities, understand how they rely on one another, and see how collective actions can create a greater impact on important issues.	- What community care means and why it matters. - Giving can also help us receive support and connection. - Why feeling responsible for and connected to our communities is important.	<i>Take a small but meaningful action to practice community care. Try to take an action that connects to the community care effort you researched or planned.</i>	Social awareness: Interconnectedness Relationship skills: Interdependence Responsible decision-making: Advocacy
Local Community Care: It Takes a Village	This lesson builds on the previous one (Local Community Care: Giving and Receiving). Students explore how working together can make their social justice actions more powerful—and sometimes more challenging. They'll reflect on the benefits of collective action, learn strategies for collaborating effectively, and turn their individual ideas into a shared plan to support a local social justice effort.	- The power of working together—"It takes a village!" - How supporting local social justice efforts strengthens the entire community. - How social justice is an act of community care.	<i>Take the action you planned with your group to help support a local social justice effort. Remember—your group's collective actions can add up to something powerful.</i>	Social awareness: Interconnectedness Relationship skills: Interdependence Responsible decision-making: Advocacy
Wrap-Up	In this lesson, students reflect on what they have learned during this Spotlight and what learnings they can carry forward. Take time to consider ways they can continue thinking about and upholding social justice in their everyday lives.	- What they've learned during this program. - How can they continue to notice inequalities and inequities and take action to promote social justice? - How can they work together and support one another in promoting social justice?	<i>Make social justice part of how you look at everyday situations. Notice that injustices exist in our society, that many people are working to address them, and that each of us has a responsibility to care for one another.</i>	Self-awareness: Confidence Self-management: Goal-setting Self-management: Personal agency