

GIVE WHAT YOU NEED

Use the following critical thinking questions to help foster an open, student-led discussion on the theme(s) discussed in this Better Than Good episode.

The concept of giving what you need is a way for people to think about how they treat other people. We all want to be treated with common courtesy and an assumption that we are essentially good, but we can't expect others to treat us that way if we don't treat them as we want to be treated. Sometimes that even means being the first person to show maturity.

1. Asking for what you need can go a long way toward making sure you get what you need, and is also kind to others. But it isn't easy. Why is it so difficult to ask for what you need? Describe something you need from your school's administrators or other decision-makers, and one thing that would make it easier to ask for it.

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2. Treating others the way you want to be treated isn't always easy, especially when you're stressed or struggling. On a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is treating others carelessly and 10 is almost always treating others the way you want to be treated, how would you grade yourself generally? How would you grade your leadership group generally, and how could your group work to improve that number?

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3. Keith defines fear of others as False Evidence Appearing Real, where people jump to conclusions about another person or group. Can you think of a time when that has happened in your life, group, school or community? How could it have been prevented? What is a potential result of giving others the benefit of the doubt?

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4. Keith says, "Failing is not failing. Failing is figuring out what doesn't work." Describe a time your group worked hard on an event or initiative and it didn't work out like you hoped it would. What's one thing you learned doesn't work, and what did you (or will you) do differently the next time?

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5. The students in the episode say being mature means being able to see and respect other people's perspectives, which means you can listen better. Do you think that ability comes naturally with age and experience, or do you need to intentionally practice doing that? Give an example of a person or group that you could do a better job of listening to, and how you think they would react.

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