



It's Personal / Week 1

SO HOW DOES THIS WORK?

You've probably noticed the whole world has changed in different ways. And, your group time may be changing, too. This adaptation is a tool to help you integrate teaching time with small group time so that the message is broken up and discussed along the way.

IF YOU ARE USING A TEACHING VIDEO

The speaker will pause at key moments and questions will appear on screen. Remember, to pause the video and give your group time to discuss. Your church may give you a specific amount of time or leave it up to you. When the conversation is ready to transition, start up the video again.

For this video, you will pause for small group conversation at the following times:

0:40

3:51

7:41

14:02

14:36

14:45

After the video, be sure to wrap up with more discussion if needed or prayer time. And don't forget to check out the "Try This" section of your Small Group Leader Guide.

IF SOMEONE IS COMMUNICATING LIVE

The speaker will pause at key moments and give your groups time to discuss. Whether you're meeting digitally or in a small group in person, the communicator should give you an idea of how long you have to chat and which questions to discuss. **This information can be found in the Digital and Home Group Option of the Communicator Guide.**

After the talk, be sure to wrap up with more discussion if needed or prayer time. And don't forget to check out the "Try This" section of your Small Group Leader Guide.

DON'T FORGET

READ AHEAD

No matter where or how you lead your group, it's important to spend a few minutes preparing. Take time to read the THINK ABOUT THIS section which will set you up to meet your students right where they are. And don't forget the GOAL OF SMALL GROUP which will point your conversation in the right direction.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Remember, nobody knows your group quite like you. Just because a question appears on a piece of paper or on screen doesn't mean you have to ask it or use the same words. Ultimately, YOU are guiding the conversation for your group. So feel free to add, delete, or adapt questions to meet their needs.

LET THEM KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING

Chances are, your few are curious what group will look like if you're changing formats. At the beginning of group time, give them an idea how the format may have changed so they will know what to expect.

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

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BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

It's personal because Jesus knows your name.

SCRIPTURE

A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy (Luke 19:2 NIV).

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today" (Luke 19:5 NIV).

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-39 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To show students that Jesus knows and wants a personal relationship with them, and to help them practice valuing others by getting to know them personally.

THINK ABOUT THIS

How your middle schoolers feel about God knowing their name depends a lot on their view of Him. For some, this could be very moving. The fact that the God of the universe wants to know them personally could be life-changing and important for them. For others, it could be scary. If they see God as this big, mean being who wants to punish them, then the thought of Him knowing them personally might bring on a lot of fear of judgment. Some students may find it strange or even hard to believe, as it's such an abstract thought. And some may even find it unimportant or insignificant. Be sensitive to the fact that while we want this to be a glimpse at a personal God, for some of your few it could be something completely different in this phase.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here.

DURING GROUP

After the first break, complete this activity:

ICE BREAKER

Say a student's name and throw a ball (or anything that's safe to toss!) to them. They'll then throw the ball to someone else and say their name. Continue passing the ball around your group as quickly as possible until it has been passed to everyone in your group. The group will then start over, throwing the ball to everyone in the same order and seeing how fast they can go without making a mistake. Repeat it 5 times to try to break the record time!

DISCUSS THIS

After the second break, discuss these questions:

1. On a scale of 1-10, how good are you at remembering names?
2. Think of a time someone you didn't expect knew or remembered your name. How did that make you feel?
3. Think of a time someone who should have known your name didn't know or remember your name. How did that make you feel?

After the third break, discuss these questions:

4. How does it feel to know that Jesus knows your name?
5. Does knowing Jesus cares enough to know your name change the way you feel about Him? Why?

After the fourth break, discuss these questions:

6. What's one step you can take toward getting to know Jesus more?
7. Who is one person in your world that you want to get to know more?

After the fifth break, discuss this question:

8. In which of these places do you want to learn more people's names?

- School?
- Small Group?
- Neighborhood?
- Class?
- Bus?
- Where you serve?
- Team?
- Youth group?

After the sixth break, complete this activity:

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE)

Pass out paper and pens to your students and ask them to draw a diagram of the place they identified from question #8. Ask them to make a goal to learn everyone's name in that diagram. Remind your few that even if they aren't good at remembering names, a great place to start is by simply writing names down on their sheet.
