



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Back To Life / Week 2

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

LEADER PREP

CONVERSATION GUIDE

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus makes your faith matter.

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 15:3-6 NLT

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To show students that doubts and questions can help grow their faith and belief in Jesus and His story.

THINK ABOUT THIS

There are some parts of the Christian faith—the Easter story in particular—that may seem a bit unbelievable. Even as adults, having faith through our doubts, and the uncertainty of the unknown, can be hard. As middle schoolers, this kind of abstract thinking—thinking through doubts and questions—can be difficult to grasp and even harder to articulate. But keep in mind that it's normal for middle schoolers to express doubts and questions when it comes to their faith. This is actually a good thing, because this is exactly how their faith becomes their own. Do your best to create a safe space in small group for your students to express some of the things about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection that they have a hard time believing. Your job isn't to convince them they're true, but simply to help your few understand that doubts are okay to have!

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.

JUST FOR FUN

What's the craziest thing (like unicorns, Bigfoot, or the Loch Ness Monster) that you wish was actually real?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Doesn't believing in the Easter story sometimes feel as crazy as believing in some of those things? I know it does for me! During Easter, we may experience doubts and questions, but it's also a time for celebration and traditions.

1. Do you have a favorite Easter tradition? What is it?
2. When you think about Easter, what comes to mind?
3. What parts of the Easter story are hard to believe?
4. How do we know the Easter story really happened?
5. Have you ever been afraid to share your doubts?
6. In what ways can doubts and questions be good for your faith?
7. If Jesus didn't come back to life, how would that change things?
8. This week, who is one person you can talk to about your doubts?

XP (EXPERIENCE)

Lead your students in prayer together, thanking God for the gift of Jesus and for what the Easter season celebrates.