



FAM / Week 3

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

When your family changes, God is with you.

SCRIPTURE

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze (Isaiah 43:2 NIV).

"Don't panic. I'm with you. There's no need to fear for I'm your God. I'll give you strength. I'll help you. I'll hold you steady, keep a firm grip on you" (Isaiah 41:10 MSG).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students navigate changes in their families by remembering that God is with them and that never changes.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Change is inevitable for every family. As your students talk about this, remember that if they haven't experienced or recognized a major change in their home yet, they will soon. Encourage them with the truth that not all change has to be bad. And keep in mind that in this phase, every change will feel like a big deal. Though it may seem small to you, even the slightest changes in their home can feel as if their entire world has shifted. Be quick to encourage your few to keep the right perspective when faced with change, but be careful not to downplay or dismiss the changes they're experiencing that don't seem that significant compared to others.

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

DISCUSS THIS

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how comfortable are you dealing with any kind of change . . .
 - a. In your friend group?
 - b. At school?
 - c. On your team?
 - d. With your family?
2. Share one example of something in your family that's currently changing, either for the positive or negative. (For example, a new baby, a sibling going to college, a dad losing his job, moving, divorce, re-marriage, etc.)
3. How might knowing God never changes help you deal with changes in your family?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE)

Spread out the provided scenario cards face down in the middle of your circle. Have a student grab one and read it out loud to the group. As a group, discuss one thing that could be good about that situation and one thing someone (besides themselves) in their family might be feeling in that situation.

4. What's one thing that's helpful to remember when your family is going through a change?
 5. This week, what's one step you can take to show your family you care about them, even as things may be changing?
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MY MOM CHANGED JOBS,
AND NOW SHE WORKS AT
NIGHT INSTEAD OF DURING
THE DAY.

MY COUSIN WENT TO
COLLEGE AND NO LONGER
LIVES AT OUR HOME.

MY DAD GOT REMARRIED,
AND NOW I HAVE TWO
STEP-SIBLINGS.

AFTER MY PARENTS'
DIVORCE, MY SISTER
DECIDED TO LIVE WITH
OUR MOM, BUT I'M
LIVING WITH OUR DAD.

**I NO LONGER LIVE
WITH MY PARENTS,
I MOVED IN WITH MY
AUNT AND UNCLE.**

**I BECAME PART OF
A NEW FAMILY.**

**MY MOM IS MOVING US
TO A NEW STATE, WHICH
MEANS I AM STARTING
AT A NEW SCHOOL AGAIN.**

**MY OLDER SISTER
CHECKED INTO REHAB.**

**MY GRANDFATHER LOST
HIS JOB, AND WE ARE
STRUGGLING TO PAY RENT.**

**MY STEP-MOTHER
DECIDED TO START GOING
TO CHURCH, AND NOW
SHE MAKES US ALL GO.**

**MY PARENTS ARE
SPENDING A LOT OF TIME
TAKING CARE OF MY
AGING GRANDMOTHER.**

**MY DAD JUST GOT
DEPLOYED OVERSEAS.**