



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

It's Personal / Week 3

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.

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.

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.

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

It's personal because Jesus understands your story.

SCRIPTURE

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross (Philippians 2:5-8 NLT).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students recognize that Jesus understands their story, and to help them develop empathy for others' stories.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Understanding a student's context is often the key to developing a real relationship. Take a moment to evaluate how well you know your students' stories. Do you know what area of town they live in? Who else lives in their home? The dynamics of their family? What they love or hate about school? Where they feel safe? All of these questions add up to knowing a student personally. And when we take the time to understand their story, we earn the right to speak into their lives.

Create meaningful conversations. Adjust the questions as needed, and don't feel like you need to answer all of them.

DURING GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

After the first break, discuss these questions:

1. What's something that not many people know about you? (Note: Be prepared to share a fact about yourself that most people don't know!).

After the second break, discuss these questions:

2. How can knowing a character's backstory in a TV show or movie change how you understand them, the decisions they make, or a plot twist?
3. What is one thing that people "get wrong" about you? Or that you wish they understood about your life?

After the third break, discuss these questions:

4. Read Philippians 2:5-8. This passage points to Jesus showing humility. Describe what "humility" might look like in high school.
5. What would it look like to show humility to your friends? What about your family?

After the fourth break, discuss these questions:

6. Why is it important to show a humble attitude when learning someone's story? What would it look like for you to show a humble attitude when it comes to learning someone's story?
7. Who's someone in your life you wish you knew their backstory? What holds you back from knowing their backstory?
8. What's something you can do this week to get to know their backstory? (Note: Try giving some examples of this: spending time with someone you don't normally spend time with, ask a family member about how they grew up, ask a sibling questions about something they're interested in, ask one of your friends about life where they live, etc.).
9. What has it been like or what was it like during quarantine?

TRY THIS

This week, ask your students (and even their family members) question 9 throughout this week.
