

The logo features a central black circle with the text 'lead small.' in white. To the left of the circle is the word 'SMALL' and to the right is 'GROUP', both in red. Below this, the words 'SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE' are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The text is overlaid on a background of two thick, horizontal brushstrokes: a yellow one on top and a blue one on the bottom, both with a textured, painterly appearance.

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.

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

4:42

4:52

9:12

11:08

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

It's Personal / Week 3

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

It's personal because Jesus understands your story.

SCRIPTURE

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly (Luke 19:5-6 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To show students the value in understanding others' stories and inviting Jesus into their own story.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Remember that everyone's backstory is different. Some may open up about things you already know, some may

open up about things that are difficult or have been secrets up until this point, and some may not open up at all. It's important that you create a safe space for this conversation both in your group and in any follow up conversations you have individually. Be prepared for students to share things that may require follow up from you on a personal level. And if most of your group doesn't share a lot of their backstory, that's okay! You don't want to push them to share what they aren't ready to talk about yet. It's okay if all you do this week is create a safe space both in your group and in your relationship with your few so that they feel comfortable to share in the future when they're ready.

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:

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE)

Ask your few to fold a blank sheet of paper into fours. In each section, have them fill out or draw responses to these prompts: 1) Where did you grow up? 2) Who lives in your house? 3) What do you do on the weekend? 4) Describe the happiest day in your life so far. When finished, go around the group and ask everyone to share.

DISCUSS THIS

After the second break, discuss these questions:

1. What's one new thing that you learned about somebody in this group?
2. Why might it be easy to think we know more about someone than we really do?
3. How might knowing more of someone's story change the way we see them?

After the third break, discuss this question:

4. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus cares about your story?

After the fourth break, discuss this question:

5. What's one way you can show someone else you care about their story?
-