



# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

It's Personal / Week 4

## 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 loves you no matter what.

### SCRIPTURE

*No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:39 NLT).*

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that Jesus loves them no matter what, and they can offer a no-matter-what love to the world around them.

### THINK ABOUT THIS

As teenagers' brains are developing, they will absolutely, without doubt, 100% make poor choices. As their leaders, we can let failure surprise us OR we can have a plan for what we will say or do when a student tells us something we hoped never to hear. This week, develop a plan. As you do, remember that shame is both powerful and dangerous. Instead of adding to shame they already may feel, make your plan about communicating God's grace, and figuring out how they can get back in the game.

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

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## DURING GROUP

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#### **After the first break, discuss these questions:**

1. Tell a story about something you did that you knew you shouldn't have done when you were a little kid. How did it turn out? (Note: Try to start this light!).
2. Why do we try to keep secret something we shouldn't have done? How do you hide it from others?
3. What do you think others may think or do if they found out what you're hiding?

#### **After the second break, discuss these questions:**

4. How would you feel if Jesus asked to come to your house? Your small group? Your team huddle? To sit by you at lunch?
5. What does "no matter what" really mean? Why can that be difficult to believe?

#### **After the third break, discuss these questions:**

6. Which is easier to agree with: "God loves ME no matter what" or "God loves THEM no matter what"?
7. Who in this story do you most identify with? Zacchaeus? The people in the crowd?

#### **After the fourth break, talk about this:**

8. When's a time in your own life where you may have felt unloved? By your friends? By your family? By God?
9. Say something like this: We talked about naming what we've gone through and confessing it to someone, but it's important to share it with someone who you can feel safe with. What can we do to make this small group a safe place to confess, to each other, the things we have done?

### TRY THIS

*Be sure to observe the students in your small group that you may need to follow up with. Try putting a note in your phones as a reminder to follow up with them this week.*

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