



# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

## Family Matters / Week 3

### BEFORE GROUP

#### BOTTOM LINE

When your family changes, your mindset matters.

#### SCRIPTURE

*A time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace (Ecclesiastes 3:8 NIV).*

*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).*

#### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that change is inevitable, but God is constant and His presence can comfort us in uncertain times.

#### THINK ABOUT THIS

In this phase, all change for students can feel sudden. And given where students are developmentally, they are likely to only see change through the lens of how it affects them, and no one else. Encourage them to consider how change in families affects everyone differently and to try and see the change not just through their own eyes, but the eyes of others in their family as well.

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

### DURING GROUP

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is one of the best changes that has ever happened to you?
2. What was a change in your life that was unexpected?
3. How do you typically respond to change? How does your family as a whole typically respond to change?
4. What is one big change you or your family has experienced in the past year? How did you handle it?
5. Why do you think family-change typically feels extra difficult?
6. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8: Does this shift your view on what change looks like in your life?
7. How can this group help you work through change in your life and in your family?

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Leaders, this week's topic can bring up a lot of emotions when it comes to family change that your students have experienced. Be observant of students who you may need to follow up with this week as they process your small group time. You can also try to ask each student for prayer requests individually outside of small group time (as some student may not be ready to share in a group).