

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

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

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?
 4. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus cares about your story?
 5. What's one way you can show someone else you care about their story?
-