

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

It's Personal / Week 4

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

It's personal because Jesus loves you no matter what.

SCRIPTURE

All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner" (Luke 19: 7 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to accept God's unconditional love in their lives and to extend that same love to others.

THINK ABOUT THIS

This is a crucial message in this series! It's a great opportunity for students to be vulnerable as they reflect

on the things they think may keep them from God's unconditional love. If they do open up, your role isn't to judge or condemn. It's simply to listen and reinforce that God loves them no matter what. In addition, you may have students who struggle with the idea of saying they "love" other people. Why? Because they think concretely! To them, love is usually a term that applies to dating relationships, in family, or only in movies and TV shows. To avoid this hurdle in the conversation, clarify what you mean by love in this context. It's a great chance to normalize this vocabulary for your middle schoolers.

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

DISCUSS THIS

1. What was one thing you took away from today's message?
2. Tell us about a time when you felt like you weren't enough. (*Note: Small Group Leader, you may want to share your own story here to get the conversation started. Just be sure to keep it short and age appropriate!*)
3. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus loves everyone no matter what they do or don't do?
4. On a scale of 1 to 10, how hard is it for you to love others no matter what they do or don't do?
5. What's one thing that gets in the way of you being able to love others no matter what?
6. This week, what's one way you can show Jesus' love to others?
7. This week, what's one way you can remember that Jesus loves you no matter what?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE)

Hand out the wristband provided by your ministry leader as a take home to remind students that God loves them no matter what.