

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

It's Personal / Week 3

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

It's personal because Jesus understands your story.

SCRIPTURE

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross (Philippians 2:5-8 NLT).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students recognize that Jesus understands their story, and to help them develop empathy for others' stories.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Understanding a student's context is often the key to developing a real relationship. Take a moment to evaluate how well you know your students' stories. Do you know what area of town they live in? Who else lives in their home? The dynamics of their family? What they love or hate about school? Where they feel safe? All of these questions add up to knowing a student personally. And when we take the time to understand their story, we earn the right to speak into their lives.

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

DURING GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's something that not many people know about you? (Note: Be prepared to share a fact about yourself that most people don't know!).
2. How can knowing a character's backstory in a TV show or movie change how you understand them, the decisions they make, or a plot twist?
3. What is one thing that people "get wrong" about you? Or that you wish they understood about your life?
4. Read Philippians 2:5-8. This passage points to Jesus showing humility. Describe what "humility" might look like in high school.
5. What would it look like to show humility to your friends? What about your family?
6. Why is it important to show a humble attitude when learning someone's story? What would it look like for you to show a humble attitude when it comes to learning someone's story?
7. Who's someone in your life you wish you knew their backstory? What holds you back from knowing their backstory?
8. What's something you can do this week to get to know their backstory? (Note: Try giving some examples of this: spending time with someone you don't normally spend time with, ask a family member about how they grew up, ask a sibling questions about something they're interested in, ask one of your friends about life where they live,etc.).
9. What has it been like or what was it like during quarantine?

TRY THIS

This week, ask your students (and even their family members) question 9 throughout this week.
