



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Habits / Week 2

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.

For this video, you will pause for small group conversation at the following times:

0:31
3:07
9:52
11:59
12:09

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. **This information can be found in the Digital and Social Distanced Option of the Communicator Guide.**

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.

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BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Listening to God helps us know Him better.

SCRIPTURE

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers (Psalm 1:1 NIV).

But whose delight is in the law of the Lord and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers (Psalm 1:2-3 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students see how reading the Bible can help them listen to and learn more about God.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Middle schoolers tend to think in terms of what's definite and concrete. That can make something like listening to God a difficult thing to grasp for them, especially if they don't experience God speaking audibly to them. So thinking about how to listen to His voice may be challenging to your few. As you point them back to the Bible as a way to connect with and listen to God, remember that reading the Bible can be intimidating to some of your students. A great way to get them started is to jump in together! Try the YouVersion devotional plan for this series as a way to read, listen, and learn about God together as a group.

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

After the first break, complete this ice breaker:

ICE BREAKER

What's your favorite thing to listen to on a road trip?

DISCUSS THIS

After the second break, discuss this question:

1. How might listening help you get to know someone better?

After the third break, discuss this question:

2. How can reading the Bible help us get to know God better?

After the fourth break, discuss these questions:

3. What's one question you have about reading the Bible?
4. What have you found works the best for you when reading the Bible?

After the fifth break, complete this activity:

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE)

Complete the YouVersion devotional plan for this week together as a group. In the YouVersion Bible app, click on the "Plans" tab. Then, search for the plan called "Habits." Select "Start Plan," then "With Friends." Invite your students to the plan using the link or through the app. Once you're all set up, read the first prompt during group time and discuss it together as a group. Then, ask students to continue the conversation by reading and discussing in the app throughout the week.