

## SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Trending: How to Be a Great Small Group / Week 1

### BEFORE GROUP

#### BOTTOM LINE

You get out of small group what you put into small group.

#### SCRIPTURE

*Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near (Hebrews 10:24-25 NLT).*

#### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students see the value in their small group and encourage them to think about what they can do to make their small group better.

#### THINK ABOUT THIS

This is a great week to really let your students take the lead in the conversation. Let them talk openly about

what they love, what they don't love, and what they wish for their small group. And as they do, pay attention! Take mental notes on what they're saying because they're giving you an inside look into what's working for them, what they're struggling with, and what they want to see happen in their group. Noting this stuff will not only help you plan the kind of activities they want and create the kind of community they're looking for in your small group, it will also help you understand your students' needs, wants, and apprehensions in an individual way. Just be sure to keep new students in mind here. For first time guests or students new to your group, contributing to the conversation may not be easy. Be intentional to draw them into the discussion and encourage them to see themselves as a part of the group, too.

*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) 1

Race to put together a jigsaw puzzle as a group. (Options: Compete with other groups to see who can complete the puzzle fastest, have one student close their eyes while another student gives instructions, put the pieces together upside down, hide pieces around the room. etc.)

#### DISCUSS THIS

- Was it easier to do the puzzle as a small group compared to what it's like doing a puzzle on your own? Why or why not?
- What's your favorite part about small group?
- What's one thing you wish you could change about small group?
- What do we have the power to change in our small group to make our group better?

#### DO THIS (EXPERIENCE) 2

Create a small group bucket list of things you want to do as a group. These can be serious and/or fun. If your few are having trouble getting started, give a few examples. Think about how you can show up for each other and make an effort in group, as well as how you can have fun or serve others together.

Note to Ministry Leader – One of the XPs for this week asks each small group to put together a jigsaw puzzle. Before your talk, be sure to purchase or gather puzzles for this activity. Consider emailing small group leaders and/or parents ahead of time to see if they have puzzles to contribute or purchase them from a discount dollar store. We recommend small puzzles with around 25-30 pieces each.