

# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

## What To Do When You Don't Know What To Do / Week 4

### BEFORE GROUP

#### BOTTOM LINE

When you don't know what to do, remember that your problems can position you for a purpose.

#### SCRIPTURE

*Genesis 40:1-8 NIV*

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28 NIV).*

#### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students to understand that while pain exists, God can use it, and their faith can grow through it. There is more to their story than the painful situations.

#### THINK ABOUT THIS

Leaders, remember students show up with all sorts of challenges and pain points we may not see when we first meet them. Students who have experienced trauma, sickness, disability and difficult family situations can find a message like this one particularly difficult and may find themselves wondering, "Would God really do this to someone on purpose?" In your conversation, be careful to point out that God can USE any situation to help others, but that doesn't mean God caused or created the pain or trauma in their lives. While we want students to know God can use any hurt for a greater purpose, the objective today is not to lessen or devalue the pain our students are currently experiencing. This is not a coping mechanism; it is a perspective change.

*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

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Imagine there was a movie about the origin story of your life. What would be on the movie poster and why?
2. How are our actual origin stories similar or different from the movie poster?
3. How can problems, disappointments, or letdowns affect our relationship with those who are around you?? What about your relationship with God?
4. What is a situation that you hope God can use but you can't see it right now?
5. When someone is hurting, what are some things that people say, or do, that is helpful? What are some things that people say, or do, that is not helpful?
6. How has hearing someone else's difficult situation helped you in your own difficult situation?
7. **For upperclassmen:** Read Romans 8:28. It can be tempting to understand this verse as saying God will make all of our problems go away, but we know that isn't always the case. What are some ways God may use a situation for good *without* making it go away?

#### TRY THIS

This week, if a student shares something in group, have the other students write down their name and encourage your students to pray for them this week. Follow up with any students who share to let them know that you're available to talk.