

# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

## The YOU Effect / Week 1

### BEFORE GROUP

#### BOTTOM LINE

You have more of an effect than you think.

#### SCRIPTURE

*After this, Jesus crossed over to the far side of the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberias. A huge crowd kept following him wherever he went, because they saw his miraculous signs as he healed the sick. Then Jesus climbed a hill and sat down with his disciples around him. (It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration.) Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, "Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?" He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do. Philip replied, "Even if we worked for months, we wouldn't have enough money to feed them!" Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up. "There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?" "Tell everyone to sit down," Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.) Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted. After everyone was full, Jesus*

*told his disciples, "Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted." So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves. When the people saw him do this miraculous sign, they exclaimed, "Surely, he is the Prophet we have been expecting!" (John 6:1-14, NIV).*

#### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that they have more of an effect than they think.

#### THINK ABOUT THIS

Leaders, in this phase, students may not understand the difference between influence and popularity. Not everyone is popular, but everyone has influence. Be intentional to point out the less noticed students and how they have influence over their friends, siblings, or younger people they serve.

*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. What do you think of when you hear the word "influence"?
2. How do you know when you are being influenced by someone else?
3. Who are the people around you that have influenced you? Who are the people that you have an effect on?
4. Does it excite you or intimidate you to think about having influence in the lives of others? Why?
5. Read John 6:1-14, who do you identify with most?
  - a. The boy
  - b. The disciples
  - c. The crowd
6. What are some reasons we may think that we do not have the ability to affect the lives of others?
7. Which step is the most difficult for you when it comes to having an effect on others (identifying who needs help, identifying what they need, and identifying what you can do)?

#### TRY THIS

Challenge your students to point out one quality in each person that can be used to positively affect others.