

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Explained / Week 1

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

The point of the Bible is to know God better.

SCRIPTURE

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1 NIV).

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation (Colossians 1:15 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that the Bible is important because it helps us know what God is like, and Jesus helps us understand the Bible better because He is the ultimate representation of what God is like.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Keep in mind personality, wiring, and developmental maturity will play a big role in how students will approach this topic. There are certain students/ages that will want more concrete answers and others that will be more okay with some ambiguity. Before meeting this week, think through the various students in your group, and consider how you might tailor the questions to best match the students you have in your group—what interests them, and what they are capable of answering at their current level of development. Also, remember that there are going to be students who are skeptical of faith in general or the Bible in particular. The goal for this series isn't to try to convince them of anything, but to make sure they feel a sense of belonging before having completely bought into a set of beliefs.

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 question about life do you wish you knew the answer to?
2. What are some of the common questions you hear people ask about the Bible?
3. For upperclassmen: What have you read in the Bible that has created tension in your faith?
4. Think back to "middle school you." How did you see the Bible at that age? How has your view changed since then?
5. Read John 1:1. What does this mean in your own words?
6. For upperclassmen: What are some of the characteristics we know to be true of Jesus? If Jesus is the best representation of God, how does knowing Jesus also affect the way you see God?
7. How does knowing that the purpose of the Bible is to point us to Jesus change how you see or think about the Bible?
8. How can someone get to know Jesus even if they aren't sure what they think about the Bible? (*Note to the SGL: Reminder: You might be the only Bible other people see. Belonging before belief.*)

TRY THIS

This week, as you consider the students in your group, take into account how they answered the questions asked and how that might reflect where they are in their own faith journey.