



## SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

### I MATTER WEEK 3 WHAT I'VE BEEN THROUGH

#### Small Group Welcome

1. **Introduce** yourself, and **welcome** new kids by name.
2. Kids **share** what happened during the past week.
3. **Check up** on past week's prayer requests and events.
4. **Discuss** the question: **What would you do if you woke up with a mustache?**

#### Small Group Activity

##### You'll Need

<b>Per Kid</b>	1 blank puzzle 1 paper bag
<b>Per Group</b>	1 set of markers

##### After Activity

<b>Kids Keep</b>	The puzzle they made inside their bag
<b>You Keep</b>	The markers ( <i>save for later use</i> )

##### To Do

**Say:** It's hard to understand why bad things happen, but we can still trust God. Let's make a puzzle to show how every piece of our life fits together in God's good plan.

1. **Give** each kid a blank puzzle and a paper bag.
2. Each kid **writes** their name on their bag.
3. Kids **draw** or **write** good and bad things they've been through on their puzzle. *Examples: became a big brother/big sister, got a pet, parents divorced, etc.*

**Note:** Tell campus staff if a kid indicates abuse, neglect, or their family being in a dangerous or needy life situation.

4. Kids **put** their puzzle in their own paper bag.
5. **If time allows**, kids **color** and **decorate** their bags.

##### Choose questions to ask while kids play.

1. **What happens when a puzzle is missing a piece?** *It is incomplete; you can't finish it; it has a hole in it.*
2. **How is a puzzle a lot like our lives?** *Everything that happens fits in somewhere. God will use every piece to work for good, not just some of the pieces.*

Please save questions on back for Small Group Discussion.

#### Small Group Discussion

##### Say the point and Bible verse together.

Use your story to give God glory.

Romans 8:28 NIV

*... in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

1. **Which things can God use for good?** *All things*

##### Choose a few review questions.

1. **How did Harper's parents' divorce help Harper do something good?** *Harper understood what Alissa was going through, and she knew how to help Alissa.*
2. **When bad things happen, what can you remember about God?** *He can use bad things to work for good.*
3. **What are some good things that happened to you?** *Answers will vary.*
4. **How did God use them for good?** *Answers will vary.*
5. **Share some bad things that happened to you. How do you think God might use them for good?** *Answers will vary. Tell campus staff if a kid indicates abuse, neglect, or their family being in a dangerous or needy life situation.*

##### Choose an action step question.

1. **Think of someone you know who is going through a hard time. What can you do to encourage and help them?** *Answers will vary.*
2. **What can you do this week to keep trusting God in every situation, good and bad?** *Answers will vary.*

##### Pray together.

1. **Ask** kids to share things they'd like to pray about.
2. **Write down** their prayer requests.
3. **Pray** together over the prayer requests.

**Not sure what to pray? Pray this:** God, please help us to trust Your plan when things are good and when they're bad. In Jesus' name, amen.

#### Check Out

Stay in small groups until kids are checked out.

1. **Talk about** earning points by returning the Challenge Card, and **continue decorating** bags and puzzles.
2. When a kid from your small group leaves, **say** something positive and specific to their family.
3. **Encourage** families to do the Challenge Card together.