



Never Give Up / Week 2

SO HOW DOES THIS WORK?

The SGL Guide Integrated incorporates teaching time with small group time so that the message is broken up and discussed along the way.

TEACHING LIVE

The speaker will identify key moments to pause during the message and direct students to turn to their small groups and discuss. You as the speaker can decide when, where, and how often to pause, or you can watch the teaching video to get some ideas!

For this video, you will pause for small group conversation at the following times:

1:42

2:23

3:27

11:13

14:18

TEACHING VIDEO

The communicator on the teaching video will pause at key moments and a cue will appear on the screen. Remember to pause the video and give your group time to discuss. Your church may give you a specific amount of time for each pause or leave it up to you. When the conversation is ready to transition, start up the video again.

After the video, be sure to wrap up with more discussion if needed or prayer time.

DON'T FORGET

READ AHEAD

No matter where or how you lead your group, it's important to spend a few minutes preparing. Take time to read the THINK ABOUT THIS section which will set you up to meet your students right where they are. And don't forget the GOAL OF SMALL GROUP which will point your conversation in the right direction.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Remember, nobody knows your group quite like you. Just because a question appears on a piece of paper or on screen doesn't mean you have to ask it or use the same words. Ultimately, YOU are guiding the conversation for your group. So feel free to add, delete, or adapt questions to meet their needs.

LET THEM KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING

Chances are, your few are curious what group will look like if you're changing formats. At the beginning of group time, give them an idea how the format may have changed so they will know what to expect.



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BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Never give up on God.

SCRIPTURE

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students see the importance of developing resilience in their faith and to encourage them to not to give up on God in the face of challenges.

THINK ABOUT THIS

It's important to leave space for students to struggle with their faith and share honestly about it during your time together. You don't want to make them feel like they have to see the good in difficult things if they just aren't ready to

yet. Though we know God can use those hard circumstances to grow their faith, your few may not

yet see it themselves. Asking them to do so may feel like you're asking them to overlook the pain, struggle, or doubts they're experiencing as a result. The reality is that difficult things are going to happen all throughout their lives. Having a conversation like this one now will give students a chance to begin processing the way those things impact their faith. It's a skill that will serve and encourage them as they grow. The hope is that thinking through this now, even if they don't fully believe or experience it yet, will encourage them to keep digging in and staying the course with their faith as they grow up and experience challenges along the way. Be sure to emphasize that this isn't about what happens or how circumstances work out in the end. Rather, it's about remembering what is true: that God is present and with them in everything they face.

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

After the first break, complete this activity:

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE)

Place a large sticky note/poster board where everyone has access and write down the following phrase at the top: "Words that describe God." Ask your students to write down as many words they can think of.

After the second break, discuss this question:

1. In what ways have you experienced God to be some of the things on this list?

After the third break, discuss these questions:

2. Think about something challenging you've experienced or are experiencing right now. Look at this list we just made. Does what you're going through change the words that stand out to you about God?
3. Do you have any words to add to the list we created?

After the fourth break, discuss this question:

4. How might going through difficult things impact our faith?

After the fifth break, complete this activity:

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE)

Place 4 more large sticky notes/poster boards where everyone has access. At the top of each poster board write each phrase listed below and have your students write down their responses. Discuss what they wrote as a group.

- Reasons someone might question what they believe about God or about who God really is.
- This is true about God no matter what.
- This is what I can do about the difficult thing I'm facing.
- This is what I'll trust God to handle.

Have students take pictures of the poster boards (or take one and send it to your students!) as a reminder of how they can trust in God and grow resilient in their faith during difficult things. Then, ask a student who is comfortable to close your group in prayer.
