



## The Whole Point / Week 2

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### 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:

1:55

4:13

8:24

10:06

10:16

10:26

#### 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.

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### 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 group 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

What God thinks matters most.

#### SCRIPTURE

*Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ (Galatians 1:10 NIV).*

#### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To remind students of what God thinks about them and to encourage them to place God's opinion above the opinions of others.

#### THINK ABOUT THIS

This week's conversation is all about finding freedom from living for others' approval. This is an important

conversation for your few because as middle schoolers, they're highly motivated by the opinions of others. From their parents and siblings, to their friends and small group members, middle schoolers are consumed with the desire to be liked or approved of by the people in their lives. That's why encouraging them to find freedom from this is huge! Of course, it's a nuanced conversation, as sometimes it's important to take note of or care about the opinions of people in their lives. The goal here isn't to let them think these things never matter (because sometimes, they do!). Rather, it's to help them be able to distinguish when living for that approval is driving them to negative or even unhealthy thoughts and behaviors.

*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, discuss these questions:

- On a scale of 1 to 10, how much do middle schoolers care about what their . . .
  - Friends think?
  - Siblings think?
  - People at church think?
  - Parents think?
  - Followers on social media think?
- Whose opinions of you do you value the most?
- Why do you value their opinion of you so much?

#### After the second break, discuss this question:

- What can be difficult about living for the approval of others?

#### After the third break, discuss this question:

- How might your life look different if you're not living for the approval of others?

#### After the fourth break, complete this activity:

#### DO THIS (EXPERIENCE)

Pass out the provided journal page and have your few complete it during group time.

#### After the fifth break, discuss these questions:

- How is living for the approval of God different from living for the approval of others?
- What's one thing that God thinks about you?
- How does it feel to know that God thinks these things about you?

#### After the sixth break, complete this activity:

#### DO THIS (EXPERIENCE)

Using dry erase boards or sheets of paper, ask your students to write down something that reminds them of who they are and what God thinks about them. Take a photo of your group holding up their signs and post it on social media!

# I HAVE THE FREEDOM to...

Most of us know what it feels like to want other people to like us. But that can feel exhausting and like it never ends. What God thinks about us matters most. When we remember this truth and stop living for the approval of others, we can gain freedom in our lives.

Circle the phrases that stand out to you when you think about what it would be like to live free from wanting the approval and acceptance of others.

WHEN I REMEMBER THAT I DON'T HAVE TO LIVE FOR OTHERS' APPROVAL  
AND THAT GOD'S OPINION MATTERS MOST, I'M FREE TO ...

DRESS HOW I WANT

BE CONFIDENT IN MYSELF

LISTEN TO THE MUSIC I LIKE

SPEAK UP

BE FRIENDS WITH WHOMEVER I

STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD

WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH

ASK QUESTIONS WHEN I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND SOMETHING

BE PROUD OF MY BELIEFS

STAND UP FOR OTHERS

LIKE WHO I AM

STAND UP FOR MYSELF

FOLLOW GOD WITH MY  
WHOLE HEART

BE AUTHENTIC

SING WORSHIP SONGS AT  
THE TOP OF MY LUNGS

TRY SOMETHING NEW

LAUGH AT MY MISTAKES

ASK FOR HELP

BE BAD AT SOMETHING

NOT CARE WHAT THE  
CROWD THINKS

FOLLOW MY INTERESTS & HOBBIES

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