



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Afterlife / Week 1

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Because of the resurrection, John knew God is love.

SCRIPTURE

1 John 4:9-10 NIV & 1 John 4:16a NIV

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students begin to reshape their view of God and personalize what Easter means for them.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Somewhere in the middle of the high school years (ahem, we see you tenth grade), students begin to question and rethink what they have always believed. This isn't a bad thing. It's necessary for developing an authentic personal faith. This week, encourage and celebrate any student who is wrestling with or questioning what they have always believed.

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 is one thing you used to fear doing that you don't anymore? How did you get over that fear?
 2. Have you ever had an opinion about someone that changed once you got to know them? Without saying names, what changed your opinion of them?
 3. What are some different ideas people have about who God is and what God is like?
 4. Why do you think there are so many different opinions of what God is like?
 5. Based on your experiences, what are some of the following words that describe God to you? (Feel free to pick your own words as well!)
- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| • Angry | • Old |
| • Disappointed | • Just |
| • Fun | • Demanding |
| • Nice | • Loving |
| • Disinterested | • Forgiving |
| • Far Away | • Understanding |
6. What are some examples of experiences that shape the way you think God feels about you?
 7. Read 1 John 4:9-10. John knew he was loved. What do people do differently when they know and believe they are loved compared to when they don't? What could change about someone's life if they truly believed God loved them?
 8. How can we remind ourselves and others of the truth about how God feels about us?

TRY THIS

Sometimes it is easier to believe God loves you more than God likes you. Encourage your students to set a reminder on their phones that goes off three times a day that says something like: "God likes me."