



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Deep / Week 2

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

LEADER PREP

CONVERSATION GUIDE

BOTTOM LINE

God uses people to grow our faith.

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 13:20 NIV

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to pay attention to the people they let influence their lives and their faith.

THINK ABOUT THIS

As leaders, it's easy to focus on the importance of choosing friends and influences wisely for students in this phase. However, middle schoolers take this advice very concretely. In other words, they often hear it as, "Only be friends with people who are just like you." It's important to help them understand that they can be friends with people who believe other things than they do. The key is to recognize if they're influencing their friends or if their friends are influencing them. Understanding the difference will be huge for students as they choose their friends in this phase.

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.

JUST FOR FUN

If you had to choose one animal to look like for the rest of your life, what animal would you choose?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Those are some good answers! In real life, we may not take on the same physical traits as the people we spend time with, but the people who are closest to us definitely influence our lives.

1. Why do you think it's important to pay attention to who we let influence us?
2. How might spending time with someone who doesn't believe in God influence your faith both positively and negatively?
3. How might spending time with someone who believes in God influence your faith?
4. Why do you think God uses people to grow our faith?
5. Share a story about someone who has influenced your faith.
6. In what ways has God used you to influence the faith of someone else?

XP (EXPERIENCE)

Pass out the provided "Building a Relationship" worksheets to your students, and ask them to identify someone they want to learn from or who could help them deepen their faith. Then, as a group, brainstorm ways in which they can invest in a relationship with that person. Ask your students to finish the worksheet by making a personal plan for how they'll take steps to build a relationship with the person they identified.

BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP

God uses people to grow your faith. That's why who you spend time with, who you let influence your life, and who you go to for advice matters. You can begin to build relationships with people who can build you up by making a simple plan.

Start by filling out this worksheet, and then actually do the things you listed!

STEP 1: IDENTIFY ONE PERSON

Who do you want to learn from and turn to for advice? Who can influence your life for the better? Think about the people you know at school, at home, on your team, in your band, at your church, or in your community who live their lives the way you want to live yours. Then, list one person who could help you grow deeper in your faith and influence you in positive ways.

STEP 2: MAKE A PLAN

List a few ways you can reach out to the person you identified to build a relationship with them. Choose one of these things and commit to doing it this week!

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