

# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Even If / Week 1

## BEFORE GROUP

### BOTTOM LINE

God doesn't change, even if...

### SCRIPTURE

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8 NLT).*

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students think about how they handle change and to point them toward finding peace in remembering the God who never changes.

### THINK ABOUT THIS

At this phase, students are going through many changes and many changes are happening to them. Their friend groups are changing, their interests are changing, and even they are changing. Their parents', teachers', coaches', and other leaders' decisions can even cause change in their lives outside of your students' control. For some students even small changes feel like the end of the world whereas for other students, change is fun and exciting. Help them name their feelings regarding change, but allow them to steer the conversation and avoid making them feel negatively about change if they currently see change in a positive light.

*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's one way your life changed this past year? (**Leader note:** If this is a new group that has just started meeting, this question may be asking your students to go a little deeper than they are ready. Instead, have students talk about what they may be excited about as they head into a new school year.)
2. What are some good examples of change? (**Leaders note:** Maybe have your students write down their answers on post-it notes for the group to be able to see. This can allow space for those who are internal processors to contribute when it feels comfortable.)
3. When it comes to change, do you tend to view it negatively or positively? Why do you think that is?
4. **Upperclassmen Question:** What's a change that didn't happen to you directly, but still had an effect on you?
5. What is something that is consistent in your life even when things change?
6. Even if change happens, what do you hold on to? Why do you hold on to it? What does it do for you?
7. Read Hebrews 13:8 *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever*. How does knowing God doesn't change give you something to hold on to when you face change?
8. Think of someone you know who might be going through a time of change. How can you remind them (without diminishing what they're facing) that despite the change, God doesn't change?

### TRY THIS

Sometimes it can be challenging to remember that God is present in everything we go through. Encourage students to look for glimpses of God this week and to share them in the group chat.