

# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Even If / Week 4

## BEFORE GROUP

### BOTTOM LINE

You'll be stronger, even if...

### SCRIPTURE

*Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy (James 1:2 NLT).*

*For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow (James 1:3 NLT).*

*So let it [your endurance] grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing (James 1:4 NLT).*

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To challenge students to be resilient in the face of change and to encourage them to think about what God may be doing in their lives through change.

### THINK ABOUT THIS

At this phase, thinking about the future can be difficult and rewards in the future may not be compelling enough to get students motivated toward action. Connect endurance to not just becoming better adults, but also being better humans today. You may have to help them connect the dots between how their current decisions can develop characteristics that will help them in the future.

*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. Share a change you've faced that was easy to go through. Was it challenging to think of an example?
2. Why can change potentially be difficult to deal with?
3. In what ways does change make you feel like you're not in control?
4. If Jesus were asking you to stretch beyond your comfort zone, what's one thing you think He'd ask you to do?
5. How does working through pain and struggle help us to develop endurance?
6. How does God use change to make us stronger?
7. What's one area of change that you need to stop fighting and start embracing?
8. What would it look like for you to do that?
9. What's one thing that could potentially get in the way?
10. **Upperclassmen:** Does it change the way you see change to know that change has the potential to make you better at life?
11. **Upperclassmen:** Read James 1:2 -4. What could choosing "great joy" look like in your life when it comes to facing change?

### TRY THIS

At some point this week have students' text to the group about a change or challenge they faced that made them stronger. Help them to put language around what this reveals about God's commitment to use change to make them stronger.