

# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

It's Personal / Week 4

## BEFORE GROUP

### BOTTOM LINE

It's personal because Jesus loves you no matter what.

### SCRIPTURE

*No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:39 NLT).*

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that Jesus loves them no matter what, and they can offer a no-matter-what love to the world around them.

### THINK ABOUT THIS

As teenagers' brains are developing, they will absolutely, without doubt, 100% make poor choices. As their leaders, we can let failure surprise us OR we can have a plan for what we will say or do when a student tells us something we hoped never to hear. This week, develop a plan. As you do, remember that shame is both powerful and dangerous. Instead of adding to shame they already may feel, make your plan about communicating God's grace, and figuring out how they can get back in the game.

*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. Tell a story about something you did that you knew you shouldn't have done when you were a little kid. How did it turn out? (Note: Try to start this light!).
2. Why do we try to keep secret something we shouldn't have done? How do you hide it from others?
3. What do you think others may think or do if they found out what you're hiding?
4. How would you feel if Jesus asked to come to your house? Your small group? Your team huddle? To sit by you at lunch?
5. What does "no matter what" really mean? Why can that be difficult to believe?
6. Which is easier to agree with: "God loves ME no matter what" or "God loves THEM no matter what"?
7. Who in this story do you most identify with? Zacchaeus? The people in the crowd?
8. When's a time in your own life where you may have felt unloved? By your friends? By your family? By God?
9. Say something like this: We talked about naming what we've gone through and confessing it to someone, but it's important to share it with someone who you can feel safe with. What can we do to make this small group a safe place to confess, to each other, the things we have done?

### TRY THIS

*Be sure to observe the students in your small group that you may need to follow up with - put a note in your phones as a reminder to follow up with them this week.*