

Listen before you lead.

The first goal is not to impress students. It is to know them.

60 minutes / Relationship + Trust / John 10:14

Bring a printed Bible (NKJV), paper, and pens. Use your Bible for full Scripture readings.

LEADER PREP • 5 MINUTES

Walk in curious.

Your instinct may be to walk into the first gathering with something impressive to say. Resist that.

Tonight is about discovering who is in front of you. Learn their names, their stories, what they enjoy, what they are carrying, and what they hope this group becomes.

You are beginning to answer one important question: **"Who has God entrusted to me?"**

THE WIN

If students leave tonight believing, "That adult actually cares about what is happening in my life," Week One was successful.

TONIGHT'S FLOW

Keep it conversational.

This week intentionally spends more time at the table. You are building relational permission for deeper conversations later.

20 MIN / Table Eat something together. Keep phones away when possible. Ask questions, laugh, listen, and let conversation breathe.

10 MIN / Word Read John 10:14 and share the short teaching below. Do not turn this into a sermon.

20 MIN / Talk Use the discussion questions. Follow good answers with "Tell me more about that."

10 MIN / Pray Ask each student for one thing they would like prayer for. Write it down and actually pray for it this week.

THE BIG IDEA

**Jesus didn't treat people like a crowd.
He knew people personally.**

Discipleship begins when people are seen, known, and invited into relationship. Before we ask students to trust our leadership, we should demonstrate that they matter to us.

SCRIPTURE

Jesus knows His sheep.

JOHN 10:14

Jesus said, **"I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own."**

Notice the language Jesus uses. Shepherding is not merely managing a group. It is knowing people.

That is our starting point for THE FEW. Before programs, plans, or teaching rhythms, students should experience what it feels like to be known by someone in their church.

TEACHING GUIDE • 10 MINUTES

Three simple truths.

These are talking points, not a manuscript. Put them in your own voice.

01 God knows you personally.

You are not anonymous to God. He knows your story, your questions, your pressures, your fears, and your future. Jesus describes Himself as a Shepherd who knows His sheep.

02 The Church should be a place where you are known too.

Church should be more than sitting in a room with people who don't know anything about your life. God designed His people to know, encourage, pray for, and walk with one another.

03 That's what we're building here.

This group may never be huge-and that is okay. We want this to become a place where you can know God, ask real questions, grow spiritually, and have people who genuinely care about you.

TALK

Don't rush the questions.

- 01** What's one thing you wish adults understood better about people your age?
- 02** What's something you actually enjoy about church?
- 03** What's something about church or faith that you don't understand?
- 04** If this group could become genuinely helpful to you, what would you want us to talk about or do?
- 05** What's one thing happening in your life right now that you would like someone to pray about?

OPTIONAL / KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING

- When has someone made you feel truly listened to?
- What makes it easier - or harder - to ask an honest question?
- What stands out to you about Jesus knowing His sheep?
- What could we do to help someone new feel included here?

Choose what helps your group. You do not need to ask every question.

Let students help lead.

Optional question box: write or print questions on slips of paper. Let students draw one and invite the group to respond. Allow anyone to pass. Stay involved, listen, and guide the conversation.

PRACTICE + PRAY

STUDENT PRACTICE

One honest answer.

Ask every student to finish this sentence:
"One thing I hope this group becomes is..."

PRAYER

Pray by name.

Close by praying specifically for each student by name and for the needs they shared. Avoid generic language. Let them hear that you were listening.

LEADER COACHING

Notice this.

- Who talked easily and who stayed quiet?
- Which student seemed uncomfortable?
- Did anyone reveal a deeper issue you should follow up on?
- What topics immediately created energy in the conversation?
- Which student may need a one-on-one conversation this week?

BEFORE WEEK TWO

The lesson isn't finished when they leave.

- 01** Write down each student's prayer request.
- 02** Pray for every student by name at least twice this week.
- 03** Send each student one simple personal message: "Glad you were there. I'm praying about what you shared."
- 04** Follow up privately with anything that sounded serious, involving the pastor or parent when appropriate.
- 05** Before Week Two, be able to say one meaningful thing you learned about every student.

PARENT TABLE TALK

Take the conversation home.

Send this to parents after the gathering. Keep it simple enough that families will actually use it.

ASK What did you talk about at THE FEW tonight?

SHARE Tell your student about an adult who made you feel known when you were their age.

PRACTICE Give your student ten uninterrupted minutes to tell you what's happening in their world.

PRAY Pray: "Jesus, help our home become a place where we know You and know one another deeply."

NEXT

Week 02 - You Belong Here.

Once students begin to experience what it means to be known, the next step is helping them understand that they belong to the Body of Christ.