



Small Group Leader Guide

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Everyone matters to Jesus, so everyone should matter to us.

SCRIPTURE

Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food. The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?" (John 4:7-9 NLT).

Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, "He told me everything I ever did!" (John 4:39 NLT).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to begin taking steps toward loving and caring for those who have different perspectives.

THINK ABOUT THIS

In this phase, students tend to think outwardly first. In other words, it's easier for them to see things in others first before they can look inwardly and see it in themselves. Keep that in mind as you lead this conversation this week. As your middle schoolers consider what it means to move toward those who think or believe differently than they do, they may not see that they're the ones who need to take the first step. And in some cases, they may not be! But in case they are, it's important to help them recognize this on their own. Giving good examples of how we categorize others and then asking them to see themselves in those examples is a great way to start. And, of course, be sure to create a safe space for students to open up about how they may have been categorized or dismissed unfairly. That hurt is real, and the action that caused it isn't reflective of the first things Jesus calls us to put first in our faith. So, no matter where they land here, focus on the truth that it's our calling as followers of Jesus to love others—all others!

DURING GROUP

JUST FOR FUN

What's the funniest pick-up line you've ever heard?

DISCUSS THIS

Those pick-up lines are hilarious! Everybody has a different approach to it, right? But everyone has a way of striking up conversations with people they don't know.

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE)

Share your favorite conversation starters you use when talking to someone new. A girl or a boy you have a crush on? A new student at school? A new face in your Small Group or on your team? A family who moved in next door? Practice them together as a way of preparing your few to talk to people who are different than them

1. Have you ever come across someone who had a completely different . . .
 - a. Interest than you?
 - b. Belief system than you?
 - c. Idea of what is right and wrong than you?
2. Does talking to someone who is different from you make you nervous or excited? Why?



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3. Is it okay for you not to agree with someone? Why or why not?
4. What's one thing that makes it hard to care for people who have a different perspective than you?
5. What are some of the positive or negative things about everyone having the same perspective?
6. Why is it important to see the value in everyone, not just those who are like us or think like us?
7. When you think about your normal day, how often do you interact with or talk to people who are different than you?
8. Tell us about the best book, YouTube video, television show, movie, or documentary you've seen that has helped you see people differently.
9. This week, what's one step you can take to start paying attention to, learning about, or talking to someone who is different than you?