



Small Group Leader Guide

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Our value is determined by God.

SCRIPTURE

So Jesus told them this story: "If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!" (Luke 15:3-7 NLT).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To point students to look for their value in God's eyes and to learn to love themselves through His lens.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Most middle schoolers are constantly looking for approval. The more they're liked, the better they are at certain things, the more friends they have, the more followers they get online, the more they achieve ... well, the more they're worth. As we know, this is not only an endless and ultimately empty pursuit for value, but it's also in complete opposition to the way Jesus calls us to live. In His words, we find where we should look first and foremost for our worth, and that's in God's eyes alone. Our value is determined by God, and when we see ourselves and our worth from that place, we see it the way Jesus called us to see it. We're putting the first thing first in our faith and loving ourselves as God loves us.

DURING GROUP

JUST FOR FUN

We've all been into some pretty silly trends, haven't we? One minute they're cool, and the next minute they're not. Their value changes pretty quickly! What's the silliest trend you've participated in or been excited about in your life?

DISCUSS THIS

1. How do you know if something is valuable?
2. In what ways do most middle schoolers feel valued by others?
3. Why do you think most middle schoolers struggle to see the value in themselves?
4. On a scale of 1-10, how often do you look for your value in what other people say about you?
5. Why can basing our value on what others think or say about us be a negative or positive thing?
6. On a scale of 1-10, how often do you listen to or believe what God says about you?
7. How does knowing how much value Jesus places on one lost sheep make you feel?
8. Is it hard for you to believe in and celebrate the way God values you? Why or why not?
9. This week, what's one thing you can do to remember who God says you are and what makes you who you are?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE 1)

Pass out the "Who I Am" worksheets for your group to complete and share during group time. The goal is for your students to visualize who and what they are and realize that God values those unique qualities in each of them.