



Small Group Leader Guide

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Loving your life comes from knowing your worth.

SCRIPTURE

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent (Luke 15:1-7 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand their value doesn't change, because their value doesn't come from what they do, it comes from God.

THINK ABOUT THIS

As you guide your group this week, remember that the heart of this message is about value and identity. Students often measure their worth by performance or approval from others. Your role isn't to provide quick solutions but to encourage open, honest conversations about their experiences and struggles. Focus on reinforcing this truth: their value doesn't come from achievements or others' opinions but is already secured by God's love. Your students may have a hard time embracing the simplicity of the fact that God loves them! Your goal this week is to help simplify it for them. God loves them, and it's out of that love that they can love God in return. Create space for students to reflect, ask questions, and support each other in truly believing they are valued and enough. When it comes to their faith, that's a great place to start!

DURING GROUP

JUST FOR FUN

What's one thing you thought was awesome last year but don't care about anymore?

DISCUSS THIS

1. Can you think of a time your feelings about yourself changed quickly based on what someone else thought or said about you? What happened?
2. What does it mean to feel valuable? How would you explain it?
3. Why do you think Jesus spent so much time with people who were seen as "less valuable" by society?
4. How does it change the way you think about God to know He runs toward you when you mess up or wander off?
5. You can't love others well if you don't like yourself. Why is it difficult to love others well if you're constantly focused on yourself?
6. How would your everyday life be different if you viewed yourself the way Jesus views you?
7. How can your small group support each other in believing and living out this truth about your value?

TRY THIS

Leaders—one way to get to know God better is to spend time with Him. Set a reminder for every day this week to send your group a Bible verse to encourage them and help them get to know God better.