

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

START THE PARTY / WEEK SEVEN

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

A party starter lives like others are watching.

SCRIPTURE

You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights up a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Matthew 5:14-16 NLT

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To challenge students to be a light in the world by using their influence to have an impact on others.

THINK ABOUT THIS

This week, we're talking a lot about influence. As you guide the conversation, it's important to really define what we mean by influence as you go. In the era of social media, that word gets thrown around a lot and typically in the context of having a lot of followers. Be sure to remind students they don't have to have a huge platform, or a million followers, or a big voice in the world to have influence. Simply by being alive in the world, they have the potential to have influence wherever they are. The challenge is to first recognize that potential and then to embrace it by using their influence to do some good!

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. On a scale of 1 to 10, how much do you think you can really make a difference in the world?
2. What's one reason you might think you don't have what it takes to make an impact?
3. What do you think it means to be a light in the world?
4. Who do you know that is a light? What about them makes them different?
5. What's one way you may be shining a light in the world already?
6. Where is one place you have influence right now?
7. What would it look like to use that influence to be a light? (To live like others are watching?)

TRY THIS

Leaders, remember that you have the opportunity to model what Jesus talked about for your students every single week. You can use your influence to be a light to your group each and every time you interact with them. And that's a big deal! As you're leading this week, ask God to remind you of the significance of your role in the lives of your students. Thank God for the chance to start the party for them by being a light in their world.