

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

What To Do When You Don't Know What To Do / Week 1

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Pay attention to how you affect your family.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 37:6-8 NIV

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross (Philippians 2:3-8 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To have students begin to see the role they play in their family dynamic, and to encourage students to behave in a way that elevates others in their family over themselves.

THINK ABOUT THIS

In this phase, a lack of self-awareness is developmentally normal. It may be hard for students to see how they contribute to different conflicts in their family setting. Gently try to turn their attention to how they may be contributing to family conflict (without judging them or creating shame) but by trying to open their eyes to compassion and empathy for others in their family.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here.

Discussion Questions

1. What's something you do at home that you wouldn't do at school or vice versa? (Example: You throw your food away in the cafeteria, but you don't take your food in from the table at home.)
2. If you were one of Joseph's brothers, how would you describe Joseph? If you were Joseph, how would you describe your siblings?
3. What you have said to help Joseph approach this situation differently with his brothers?
4. How could understanding the brothers' point of view change Joseph's actions towards them? How has not seeing a situation from others' perspective caused conflict in your family?
5. Think about a time where you were in the middle of a family conflict. How could seeing things from someone else's perspective have caused that situation to go differently?
6. Read Philippians 2:3-8. How is choosing to see someone else's perspective over your own valuing others above yourself?
7. What are some reasons why this passage could be more difficult to live out with our families than with others?
8. What are some situations where being unselfish with your family would be difficult? (Example: who controls the remote, who does the dishes etc.) What could you do differently?
9. When a conflict happens with your family this week, what are some ways you can consider someone else's perspective before acting out of your own interests?

TRY THIS

Dear Lord,

Thank you for our family and for blessing us in countless ways. Please help each of us to be mindful of one another and to treat each other with the respect and love they deserve. Amen.