



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Over It / Week 2

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

LEADER PREP

CONVERSATION GUIDE

BOTTOM LINE

Forgiveness helps you forgive.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 18:26b-27 NIV; Matthew 18:28 NIV; Romans 5:8 NIV

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students embrace God's forgiveness in their own lives and extend forgiveness to others.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Students are rapidly developing self-awareness in this phase. This means that for many of them, this is the first time they're recognizing that they aren't perfect, they have flaws, and they need forgiveness, both from God and others. As they process their need for forgiveness during Small Group this week, be prepared to navigate a conversation about God's ultimate forgiveness of their sins.

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.

JUST FOR FUN

What's the silliest thing that made you use this phrase: "That's not fair!"?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Nothing feels worse than when life isn't fair, right?

1. On a scale of 1-10, how often do you hear or use the phrase, "That's not fair!"? (1-never, 10-every day)
2. What are some things that feel unfair to most middle schoolers?
3. Why do you think we don't complain about things that are unfair when they benefit us?
4. For you, is forgiveness easier to give or receive? Why?
5. In what ways have you been forgiven by God or by others?
6. How does it make you feel to know that God has forgiven you?
7. How might knowing that God forgives you influence the way you forgive others?
8. How do you know if you've received God's forgiveness?
9. This week, how can you allow the forgiveness you've received motivate you to extend forgiveness to others?

XP (EXPERIENCE)

Hand out the provided worksheet, and ask students to fill it out privately during Small Group. End your time by leading your students in prayer, asking God to give the gift of His forgiveness to each one of you.

FORGIVENESS HELPS YOU FORGIVE

In order for us to forgive others, we have to start by remembering the ways we've been forgiven. Then, we can think about where we may have to ask for forgiveness from others.

WHERE I'VE BEEN FORGIVEN

WHERE I NEED TO ASK FOR FORGIVENESS

Remember, forgiveness helps you forgive. Taking a step toward believing and receiving forgiveness for yourself will help you offer that same forgiveness toward others.

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