



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Mine / Week 4

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

LEADER PREP

BOTTOM LINE

In tough times, God works in you so that He can work through you.

SCRIPTURE

*"Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." . . . So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, **so that** you may believe. But let us go to him." (John 11:11b-12, 14-15 NIV, emphasis added).*

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that difficult circumstances are opportunities to grow our faith, and to help them see that how they handle tough times can help others grow in their faith.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Leaders—when we talk about tough times, it's vital to evaluate how the message will land on each of your students. One way to do this is pick a question and imagine how each student might respond. If there has been a tragedy (suicide, shooting, etc.) or if individuals in your group have experienced tough times recently (loss of a friend, parent, security), adjust questions to be sensitive to those experiences.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

Create meaningful conversation. Adjust the questions as needed, and don't feel like you need to answer all of them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Can any of you give an example of a time that a bad situation actually worked out on your behalf?
2. What's one turning point (good or bad) you've experienced in life so far?
3. How have you seen someone handle a really tough circumstance in a positive way?
4. Do you think it's okay to grieve or be upset during a difficult situation? Why or why not?
5. When you're going through a difficult time, how does it help you to care for and focus on someone else?
6. If Jesus knew that He was about to raise Lazarus from the dead, why do you think He was still emotional about his death?
7. How would you face tough times differently if you believed that God could use them to grow your faith?

TRY THIS

Leaders—if any of your students mentioned a particularly difficult situation that they're going through right now, set a reminder for yourself to check in with them later in the week to see how things are going. Depending on the situation, you may also want to consider reaching out to a church staff member for additional guidance and support as you walk with your students through whatever they're facing.