



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Now And Later / Week 4

LEADER PREP

BOTTOM LINE

Patient people know there's more to the story.

SCRIPTURE

A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense (Proverbs 19:11 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that practicing patience toward others can lead to better relationships.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Leaders—developmentally, students' brains are limited in their ability and capacity to connect their futures to decisions they're making today. The more we can help our students "play out" scenarios in their lives and connect current situations and decisions to future years, the quicker they'll grow and establish the part of their brain associated with long-term thinking. Be patient with them as they learn to do this!

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. What's one thing that people do that annoys you or drives you crazy?
2. At what point does something change from being annoying to being hurtful?
3. What do you think your go-to response is to being hurt or frustrated by someone? What would the *people closest to you* say your go-to response is to being hurt or frustrated by someone?
4. Why is it so hard to respond in a reasonable way when we're hurt or frustrated?
5. Talk about a time when you really needed someone to show you patience in a tough situation.
6. Read Proverbs 19:11. In what ways can overlooking a hurt or frustration actually be good for YOU? Or when has having patience with a person pay off?
7. Are there times when it's not okay to overlook a hurt or offense? How do you know when you should or shouldn't address something? (*Leaders—you know your students best. Only use this question if you think it will lead to helpful discussion.*)
8. The next time you're in a frustrating situation, what's one way you can remind yourself there's more to the story? To show someone patience?

TRY THIS

Leaders—this is a great week to reach out to your students individually to find out if they're going through anything tough where they might need some extra patience from you.