



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

The Storyteller / Week 1

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

You don't have to be fixed to be found.

SCRIPTURE

The Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students see that they can have a relationship with God regardless of their mistakes or their past.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Leaders, at this phase, students are developing the ability to see other people from a different perspective. You can help your students realize that neither character was all right or all wrong.

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.

DURING GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What storybook do you remember most from your childhood?
2. Why do you think stories are so memorable and can affect us so much?
3. In your own words, retell the parable of the prodigal son. What stuck out to you?
4. In what ways are you like the older brother? In what ways are you like the younger brother?
5. As you heard the story, did you find yourself wanting to judge the younger brother or feeling like you get why the older brother is angry?
6. **Don't miss this:** What message do you send others by the way you treat them?
7. Why is it difficult to celebrate people who come to church or come to God when we think they haven't behaved well?
8. How can we, as a group, celebrate people who come back to group after being gone for a while without making it awkward?
9. **For upperclassmen:** How can the way we see people change the way we treat them? How can the way we see ourselves affect the way we treat ourselves?

TRY THIS

Leaders, people are always more complex than we think—even when at first, we think it's just good versus bad. By the end of the story, everyone had their successes and failures. This story is also not just a story of two brothers, this story is about a father who loved two sons more than they thought. Pay attention to the students in your group who may need a reminder that they are wanted and worthy of being in your small group. Reach out to them this week and remind them how thankful you are to have them in group.
