



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Direct Message / Week 1

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

LEADER PREP

CONVERSATION GUIDE

BOTTOM LINE

Prayer is about connecting, not just getting.

SCRIPTURE

"Come near to God and he will come near to you" (James 4:8a NIV).

"The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth" (Psalm 145:18 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that prayer is about connecting and spending time with God, not just getting something from God.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Leaders—remember that you might have students in your group who have a nonexistent prayer life and students who pray daily. Over the next couple weeks, your goal as a leader is to help each student take one step forward—no matter what their prayer life currently looks like.

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

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some things you tend to pray for the most as a high school student?
2. Maybe some of you don't have a prayer life. If that's the case, what tends to keep you from praying?
3. How can seeing prayer as something that connects you with God change the way you pray?
4. Prayer is about connecting, not just getting. How could being near to God actually be *better* than just praying in hopes to get things from God?
5. What's the biggest obstacle to *listening* while you pray?
6. What do you need to do this week to begin treating prayer more like a telephone instead of a megaphone?
7. This week we talked about figuring out your own prayer pattern. Pick one way you can start a new prayer pattern this week:
 - a. Write your prayers down and read them out loud to God.
 - b. Be intentional about taking a literal break from talking.
 - c. If you never tried praying before, invite someone to pray with you until you are comfortable praying by yourself.

TRY THIS

Leaders—as you wrap up this week's discussion, brainstorm with your students a few ways you can make the prayer pattern suggestions in the last question practical for everyone. Sometime this week, reach out to your students. Encourage and ask them how their new prayer pattern is going. If their prayer life is not going well, then lead by example and offer to pray with them. Ask your student to start the prayer and then offer to finish the prayer if necessary.