



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

I Have Questions / Arguing

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

You never win an argument if you lose the relationship.

SCRIPTURE

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry (James 1:19 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that the real “win” in an argument is to preserve the relationship with the other person, even if we disagree with them, and that the argument doesn’t have value but the person does.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Your students may come from various cultures and backgrounds and depending on what happens at home, there may be different ideas for the difference between fighting and arguing. Before this conversation starts, think through the homes your students are coming from.

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

DURING GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's the dumbest argument you've ever had? What made it a dumb argument?
2. What's your go to fighting style? (Yelling, shutting down, etc.)
3. Who do you get in the most arguments with? Why do you think there are some people you argue with more? (Some relationships feel safer, people we disagree with on topics we are really passionate about, people that just annoy us.)
4. How have you seen your fighting style affect your relationship?
5. Read James 1:19. Which one of these statements come naturally and which one does not?
6. What's the difference between being slow to anger and letting people walk all over you?
7. Think about the last argument you had and how it affected your relationship with that person. What would you change about how it went with a goal of preserving the relationship? What went well?
8. What boundaries do you need to put in place in order to argue in a healthier way?
9. What does a healthy relationship look like after the argument?

TRY THIS

James says we should be slow to speak. Brainstorm some things we can do while we are waiting to speak that can make us see the other person as a person and not just a position in an argument.

Encourage your students to follow your student ministry's social media as there will be posts for things to do in an argument and things not to do in an argument. As these posts come up, encourage your students to find ways to apply these reminders in their own lives.