



# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Family Matters / Week 4

## BEFORE GROUP

### BOTTOM LINE

It matters to have more people than your family.

### SCRIPTURE

*And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself (1 Samuel 18:3 NIV).*

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that they can (and should) widen the circle of their family to include a few significant relationships with close friends and mentors.

### THINK ABOUT THIS

In this phase, students' relationships with their family as well as those outside of their family can be complicated with things that may have happened in the past. It is important to make an effort to understand not just *what* may have occurred, but also *how* your students' feel about it (without making it awkward during small group time!). This is also an opportunity to encourage your small group to grow closer as students share, consider each other's different backgrounds, and ultimately by becoming a type of family as a small group.

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

## DURING GROUP

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your definition of a "perfect" family?
2. Do you ever find yourself wanting to be a part of someone else's family? Why?
3. Do you find yourself relating to friends that don't have "perfect" families?
4. When you hear about David and Jonathan's story, does it change who you think can be a part of your "family?"
5. Read Hebrews 10:24 -25. Who is someone that you need to encourage and make a part of your family?
6. How can this small group act like a family?

### TRY THIS

Hand out a "Family Matters" postcard to each student. Instruct them to think about someone, whether it is a person in their family or someone else who is like family to them that they can write then mail a short note of encouragement to. This can be done either in small group or throughout the week. *(Note to the Ministry Leader: This postcard can be found in your XP folder in your downloader)*