

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Everyday / Week 3

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

We can talk to God every day.

SCRIPTURE

...man after my own heart (Acts 13:22 NIV).

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? Why are you so far away when I groan for help? Every day I call to you, my God, but you do not answer. Every night I lift my voice, but I find no relief (Psalm 22: 1-2 NLT).

O Lord, hear my plea for justice. Listen to my cry for help. Pay attention to my prayer, for it comes from honest lips (Psalm 17:1b NIV).

I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God (Ephesians 1:16b-17 NLT).

In the same way, the Holy Spirit helps us when we are weak. We don't know what we should pray for. But the Spirit himself prays for us. He prays through groans too deep for words (Romans 8:26 NLT).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To point students toward seeing prayer as a way to connect with God and to give them a framework to use in talking to God in prayer.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Be sensitive to the experiences and circumstances represented in your group as you talk about prayer. You may have many students in your circle living on the other side of what they see as an unanswered prayer. You may even have students in the middle of praying through challenging situations and seeing no apparent response from God. That's a really difficult place for anyone to be, but especially a teenager! You don't want to inadvertently contribute to the idea that if they'd just prayed the right prayers or spent enough time talking to God, things would be different. Instead of focusing on outcomes and results, focus on the connection. Prayer is about so much more than what happens after we say "Amen!" It's about the conversation and connection it gives us with the God who loves us.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the content as needed, and don't feel like you need to complete everything listed.

DURING GROUP

DISCUSS THIS

1. Who in your life is the easiest person to talk to? Why?
2. On a scale of "A lot" to "Never," how often do you talk to God?
3. What might keep a high schooler from talking to God in prayer?
4. Is it ever hard for you to be honest with God? Why do you think that is?

5. How does knowing you can be real with God change the way you feel about talking to God?
6. How would you define humility?
7. How can humility help you in conversation with God?
8. Of the following, which comes easiest, and which do you struggle with in prayer:
 - a. Thanking God?
 - b. Being honest with God?
 - c. Talking about what you need?
 - d. Trusting God?
9. What's one way you can make prayer a part of your everyday life this week?

TRY THIS

As a way to make prayer a part of your own everyday faith, commit to praying for your students individually by name this week. It's an opportunity for you to stay in conversation with God about your students while also supporting them in their needs, struggles, and desires.
