

SMALL  GROUP

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

This Is Real Love / Week 3

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus offers everyone forgiveness.

SCRIPTURE

John 21:15-17 NLT

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To point students toward the forgiveness they can find in Jesus and to encourage them to accept that forgiveness for themselves.

THINK ABOUT THIS

As small group leaders, we sometimes tend to rush past a pause in conversation, but don't be afraid to sit in silence! That pause can indicate so many things happening in the hearts and minds of your middle schoolers. For some, it might mean they've checked out, but for others, it might mean they're processing the question, trying to find words for their answer, or simply thinking about what it means to them. We want students to do just that—to really think about what they feel or experience rather than simply take in what we're telling them they should be feeling or experiencing. Giving them time to sit in silence and process allows them to do just that! Keep in mind that, as they think about forgiveness this week, some of your students may be dealing with major hurts or wrongs that have been done to them. Forgiveness doesn't mean the consequences or pain goes away, which can be challenging for a middle schooler to see. Be sure to follow up with any students who open up about something that may need further attention or intervention to help them through it.

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

JUST FOR FUN

In your opinion, what's the all-time best Easter candy?

DISCUSS THIS

1. Which one is more difficult for you: to forgive someone else or be forgiven by someone else? Why?
2. On a scale of 1 to 10, how easy is it to believe that Jesus forgives you?
3. Does knowing you're forgiven no matter what change anything for you?
4. What might keep you from feeling like God's forgiveness is for you?
5. What might change about the way you see yourself or your faith if you believe God's forgiveness is for you?
6. What's one step you can take this week to move closer to God?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE 1)

Give out the provided phone lock screen image or sticker and tell students to use it as a reminder of Jesus' love and forgiveness. (found in Small Group folder of Week 3)
