

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Never Give Up / Week 2

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Never give up on God.

SCRIPTURE

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students see the importance of developing resilience in their faith and to encourage them to not to give up on God in the face of challenges.

THINK ABOUT THIS

It's important to leave space for students to struggle with their faith and share honestly about it during your time together. You don't want to make them feel like they have to see the good in difficult things if they just aren't ready to yet. Though we know God can use those hard circumstances to grow their faith, your few may not

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here.

LARGE GROUP

ACTIVITY

This game is called "Chair Stampede." To begin playing the game, divide the players in half and place each group on one side of the room. Next, place enough chairs on each side of the room for each player on each team, minus one. On go, each player will run to the other side of the room, dodging the other team to get a chair at the other side of the room. The player on each side of the room that does not get a chair is out of the game. Multiple rounds are played till only two individuals are left. Those two individuals are deemed the winners of "Chair Stampede."

Supplies

- Chairs

SMALL GROUP

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE)

Place a large sticky note/paper where everyone has access and write down the following phrase at the top: "Words that describe God." Ask your students to write down as many words they can think of.

DISCUSS THIS

1. In what ways have you experienced God to be some of the things on this list?
2. Think about something challenging you've experienced or are experiencing right now. Look at this list we just made. Does what you're going through change the words that stand out to you about God?
3. Do you have any words to add to the list we created?
4. How might going through difficult things impact our faith?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE)

Place 4 more large sticky notes/papers where everyone has access. At the top of each paper write each phrase listed below and have your students write down their responses. Discuss what they wrote as a group.

- Reasons someone might question what they believe about God or about who God really is.
- This is true about God no matter what.
- This is what I can do about the difficult thing I'm facing.
- This is what I'll trust God to handle.

Have students take pictures of the poster boards (or take one and send it to your students!) as a reminder of how they can trust in God and grow resilient in their faith during difficult things. Then, ask a student who is comfortable to close your group in prayer.
