

# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

## The Big Questions / Week 1

### BEFORE GROUP

#### BOTTOM LINE

When you really understand who Jesus is, it changes everything.

#### SCRIPTURE

*One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, ‘Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!’ And they left their nets at once and followed him (Matthew 4:18-20 NLT).*

#### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students think about what it really means to follow Jesus and to take a step in the direction of following Jesus with their lives.

#### THINK ABOUT THIS

Between the news, social media, and relationships with different people, your students can discover a million different definitions of what it means to be a Christian. But sometimes that also means if they don't fit in a certain box they can wonder if following Jesus is for them. As you discuss what it looks like to follow Jesus, help students differentiate between aesthetic preferences, cultural practices, and behavior modification versus believing in, following after, and being in a relationship with Jesus.

*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 one of the last questions you googled?
2. When you have a question about something, where is the first place you go to find the answer?
3. What are some characteristics most people think of when they hear the word “Christian?”
4. What are some things you've heard about “Christians” that could make someone NOT want to be a “Christian?” (**Leader Note:** Don't allow the conversation to get stuck here by trying to work through each thought they bring up. Instead, use this time to create a safe space for conversation even if students express views that may be uncomfortable, cliché, or unexpected.)
5. What do most people expect following Jesus will do for their lives?
6. How might really following Jesus be different from what others might expect?
7. How do you think Jesus would define following Jesus to the disciples? How do you think he would explain it for your life today?
8. Read John 10:10. Based on what Jesus said, what would living “life to the full” look like for you?
9. What's something that you think could get in the way of you doing that?
10. What's one next step you can take when it comes to following Jesus?

#### TRY THIS

Leader, text some friends and ask them to record a short (less than 1 minute) video answering the question “How has following Jesus been different than what you expected?” Text your small group “I've been thinking more about what we talked about this week. I asked some friends of mine to share how following Jesus has been different from what they expected. Here are some of their answers.” Post one video to the group chat each day this week.