

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

The Big Questions / Week 2

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

You don't have to prove you're enough.

SCRIPTURE

After this Jesus went across the Galilee Sea (that is, the Tiberias Sea). A large crowd followed him, because they had seen the miraculous signs he had done among the sick. Jesus went up a mountain and sat there with his disciples. It was nearly time for Passover, the Jewish festival. Jesus looked up and saw the large crowd coming toward him. He asked Philip, 'Where will we buy food to feed these people?' Jesus said this to test him, for he already knew what he was going to do. Philip replied, 'More than a half year's salary worth of food wouldn't be enough for each person to have even a little bit' (John 6:1-7 CEB).

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'A youth here has five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that for a crowd like this?' (John 6:8-9 CEB).

Jesus said, 'Have the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there. They sat down, about five thousand of them. Then Jesus took the bread. When he had given thanks, he distributed it to those who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish, each getting as much as they wanted. When they had plenty to eat, he said to his disciples, 'Gather up the leftover pieces,

so that nothing will be wasted.' So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves that had been left over by those who had eaten. When the people saw that he had done a miraculous sign, they said, 'This is truly the prophet who is coming into the world.' Jesus understood that they were about to come and force him to be their king, so he took refuge again, alone on a mountain (John 6:10-15 CEB).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To give students a space to process questions about their identity and to point them to the truth that, because of Jesus, who they are is enough.

THINK ABOUT THIS

At this phase, students feel tremendous pressure to decide who they are, but they're still just beginning to discover themselves. Take some of the stress off by reminding them that defining who they are is not a destination they reach, but a lifelong process. Encourage them to know that no matter how their interests, talents, and life circumstances change, Jesus says they are enough.

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. Leaders, read the social media bio of other leaders', celebrity influencers or musicians. (Maybe even sneak in a bio of one of your students.) Have the group guess who the bio belongs to.
2. Give each student in your group a stack of post-it notes and have them write down as many words as they can think of that people use to describe themselves. Place all the post-it notes on the wall. Words might include leader, creative, life of the party, successful, helpful, likeable, etc.
3. Of all these words on the wall, which ones represent areas where people tend to think they are not enough?
4. When you don't feel like you are enough, do you tend to respond by hiding, going out of your way to prove yourself, or something else?
5. In what ways do you think we connect our identity to our image and performance?
6. Read *Ephesians 2:10 NLT*. What is one thing you'd do differently if you believed Jesus sees you as a masterpiece??

7. What's one way that you can remind yourself of how Jesus sees you?

TRY THIS

As a group try memorizing this verse: For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. (Ephesians 2:10 NLT).
