

# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

The Big Questions / Week 3

## BEFORE GROUP

### BOTTOM LINE

You belong here.

### SCRIPTURE

*On the Sabbath we went a little way outside the city to a riverbank, where we thought people would be meeting for prayer, and we sat down to speak with some women who had gathered there. One of them was Lydia from Thyatira, a merchant of expensive purple cloth, who worshiped God. As she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying. She and her household were baptized, and she asked us to be her guests. 'If you agree that I am a true believer in the Lord,' she said, 'come and stay at my home.' And she urged us until we agreed (Acts 16:13-15 NLT).*

*After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. Then they left (Acts 16:40 NIV).*

*So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have*

*clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:26-28 NIV).*

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students see that they belong here and to work toward making their small group a place where everyone feels like they belong.

### THINK ABOUT THIS

At this phase, friendships are constantly changing. Belonging is one of the most important things to students. That's why one of the best things you can do as a leader is create a small group where students belong no matter what. This may be a good week to ask students how they feel about small group and if it truly is a place they feel like they belong.

*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. Have you ever felt like you didn't fit in? What was that like?
2. Experts say after food, clothing, water, and safety what we need next is to feel like we belong somewhere. What are some ways you have seen people try to belong or fit in?
3. Why do you think that when the early church got started it was important for them to make everyone feel like they belonged?
4. The early followers of Jesus, like Lydia, were more than just once-a-week friends. They were ride-or-die for each other. Do you think that describes most Christians today?
5. Where do you feel like you can be yourself the most? (**Leader note:** Pay special attention to the student who doesn't have an answer to this question. Spend extra time getting to know them and making them feel like they belong in your group.)
6. Do you believe you can really be yourself with God? If so, how does that belief make your life look different? If not, why not?
7. How would you treat people differently if you believed everyone could be themselves and still fit it in with God and God's people?
8. As a student ministry or small group, what are some ways that we can show people they belong when they show up here?

## TRY THIS

This week, text your group and ask “Who’s not here that we miss?” or “Who from our group haven’t we heard from in a while?” Take a moment and have the group text those people in order to remind them that they belong.

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