

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

How to Friend / Week 1

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Being a friend means serving your friends.

SCRIPTURE

So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him (John 13:4-5 NLT).

Do to others as you would like them to do to you (Luke 6:31 NLT).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage teenagers to think about what being a good friend to others looks like.

THINK ABOUT THIS

This week, we're asking students to shift their thinking on friendship slightly. Rather than focus outwardly on what their friends are or aren't doing for them, we're asking them to focus on the kind of friend they are first. Your older students may be able to do this more easily than some of your younger students. Younger high schoolers may not have the self-awareness to know what kind of friend they are yet. Do your best to guide all your students toward recognizing the kind of friend they are now and find ways to encourage them toward making changes that will help them be better friends in the future.

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. Using any emoji, TikTok reference, or GIF, describe the current state of your friendships. Explain your pick.
2. What's the most overwhelming thing about friendships in high school to you?
3. Why do you think it can be easier to focus on what your friends are or aren't doing for you rather than what you are or aren't doing for them?
4. Why do you think we tend to respond to our friends in the same way they treat us rather than the way we want to be treated?
5. What does it mean to serve your friends? How might serving your friends first change the friendships for the better?
6. **Upperclassmen Question:** What does it look like to continue to serve your friends in high school knowing that graduation is coming soon?
7. Together, let's brainstorm some ways to serve our friends. Let's come up with as many as we can!

TRY THIS

Pick a group in your church to serve together. This may be helping the office team file papers, the kids team prep activities, the parking lot team clean traffic cones etc. As they serve, challenge them to make a new friend at your church by asking great questions. Leaders, be sure to follow your ministry and church's guidelines for leader/student interactions.