

# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

How to Friend / Week 3

## BEFORE GROUP

### BOTTOM LINE

Being a friend means walking away friendly.

### SCRIPTURE

*Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, 'Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.' Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it was wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work (Acts 15:36-38 NIV).*

*They had such a sharp disagreement that they [Paul and Barnabas] parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord. He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches (Acts 15:39-41 NIV).*

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help teenagers process changes in their friendships and give them healthy ways to step back from friends when needed.

### THINK ABOUT THIS

Changing or even ending a friendship isn't an easy thing to do for anyone, but it can be especially difficult in high school. In this phase of life, friendships are huge and any kind of change can feel like a major decision or dramatic shift. Be patient with your students as they process what this means to them. While most will be able to recognize and even acknowledge relationships that need to change, they may not be ready to take the step to actually make that change. Your role is to provide a listening ear and encouragement along the way as they step toward any shifts in their friendships.

*Create meaningful conversations. Adjust the questions as needed, and don't feel like you need to answer all of them.*

## DURING GROUP

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Leader Note:** *To start this conversation off, lead with your own example! Share about a time you had to make a change or even end a friendship. Make sure to keep the story and details appropriate for students in the high school phase. This will not only give context to the message, but it will open the floor for students to feel safe to respond. Just remember to encourage them to avoid names and overly specific details during their conversation this week.*

1. Have you ever seen friends go their separate ways in a friendly way? What was that like?
2. Have you ever watched a friendship end badly? What was that like?
3. What are some reasons friendships may change or shift in high school?
4. What makes separating from a friend or a change in a friendship so difficult? What about being the friend someone else has to separate from for a season?
5. How might shifting or changing a friendship be good for you right now?
6. Practically speaking, what's a healthy, honorable, and friendly way you can handle making a change in a friendship when you need to?

## TRY THIS

Revisit the “try this” activity from the previous week. Text your students to let them know you’re available to process with them any friendship changes they anticipate making in the next season if they need a sounding board or a third party to weigh in.

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