



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

LOVE. / Week 2

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Love shows up in the low points of life.

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 4:8 NLT

Luke 23:32-43 NLT

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To remind students of the valuable truth that, because of Jesus, they are forgiven and to help them see that forgiveness is a result of God's love for them.

THINK ABOUT THIS

This week, we're talking about the connection between love and forgiveness for your students. This may be a challenging connection for your group for a number of reasons. For some, even seeing God as love may be challenging because of their circumstances or past experiences. In addition, some may struggle to see forgiveness as an act of love because they're dealing with major hurts, pains, and abuses that seem unforgivable. And finally, others may not recognize their own need for forgiveness because they don't yet see the weight of their choices and decisions. No matter what, be sensitive to the variety of viewpoints and experiences represented in your group. Don't dismiss or shut down any feelings expressed, but instead, remind your students that, because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we know God loves us enough to forgive.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the content as needed, and don't feel like you need to complete everything listed.

DURING GROUP

JUST FOR FUN

What's the funniest thing you've ever needed forgiveness for?

DISCUSS THIS

1. In your own words, how would you explain *true* forgiveness?
2. On a scale of 1 to 10, how easy is it for you to forgive?
3. What makes forgiveness challenging for you?
4. *Upperclassmen Question:* Do you find forgiveness more challenging or easier as you get older? Tell us more.
5. How are forgiveness and love related to each other?
6. What does Jesus' interaction with the men on the cross teach us about...
 - a. Forgiveness?
 - b. Love?
 - c. What God is like?
7. What does it mean to you to know God's love shows up in the low points of your life?
8. *Upperclassmen Question:* What is an example of the way you've seen God's love at work in the low points of life?

9. This week, what's one way you can let love motivate you to...
 - a. Express forgiveness?
 - b. Ask for forgiveness?

TRY THIS

So much of the Easter season is a celebration of what God has done for us. So, don't miss the chance to celebrate that with your group during this series. Find ways to make small group a little more fun by doing things like bringing Easter candy to celebrate, playing a quick seasonal-themed game, or sharing funny holiday memories. These are simple ways to do something different and put a little life into the group during this celebratory season in our faith.
