

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

The Hills / Week 2

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

God's light in you brings order to chaos.

SCRIPTURE

The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day" and the darkness "night" (Genesis 1:2-5a NLT).

"then your whole life will be radiant, as though a floodlight were filling you with light" (Luke 11:36b NLT).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To show students the power of God's light to calm the chaos they may feel in themselves and others and to encourage them to be that source of light to someone who needs it this week.

THINK ABOUT THIS

As you talk about the way light brings order to chaos, keep in mind that chaos is relative to your students. Some may find chaos in a messy room, a bad grade, or the loss of a game. Others may find it in the loss of a loved one, the break-up of their family, or a toxic relationship. Some may be living in a heightened state of chaos in their homes, their emotions, their communities, or even in their physical bodies. So, as you talk about the way light can bring peace and order over chaos, don't dismiss or diminish what feels chaotic to your students even if it seems insignificant to you. With that, acknowledge the fact that you may have students in your circle who are the victims of chaotic circumstances or people, and finding order or restoration in those places isn't as simple. If you have students who may need additional help or support, follow up with them after group one-on-one. And no matter what, remind students that even in the midst of incredible chaos, God's light is always shining and will always break through.

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

DISCUSS THIS

1. On a scale of "Totally fine," to "Totally terrified," how afraid of the dark are you?
2. What is it about going from light to darkness that can feel a little chaotic or unexpected?
3. In what ways do you think high schoolers experience chaos in their everyday lives?
4. If you're comfortable, tell us a little bit about the chaos you might be experiencing in your everyday life.
5. What do you think God's light means? What does it look like? How do we know it exists?
6. What can change for you if God's light can bring calm to the chaos you experience in this life?
7. How have you seen God use others as a light when you've experienced chaos?
8. What's one way you can allow God's light in you to do the same for someone else this week?

TRY THIS

Look up some cheap, glow-in-the-dark bracelets online to purchase for your Small Group. If that's not an option, grab a cheap pack of birthday candles instead. Whatever you choose, hand it out during this series and let it be a little reminder of the way God's light shines in each one of them.
