

SMALL  GROUP

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Be Humble / Week 4

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Be growing, be humble.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 4:1-4 NLT

Matthew 4:11 NLT

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to see the value in letting real growth happen over time and to encourage them to let humility work in them to help them pursue that growth.

THINK ABOUT THIS

As you talk about growth this week, start by making sure it's concrete to your students. We're not talking about physical growth, as in things like height, weight, muscle, and the like. We're talking about personal, spiritual growth—the kind that happens on the inside. For adults, this idea of “personal growth” may be familiar, but for a middle schooler, this might be a new concept. In this phase, it's easy for them to see life as something that happens to them. They have little control and little freedom right now, and that makes believing they can choose to grow in an area of their life a challenge. They also are still developing self-awareness in this phase. So, even if they recognize they have the freedom to pursue growth, they may not be able to identify where they want or need to grow. Avoid the temptation to answer these questions or define these ideas for them as you lead. Instead, create a space that will help them take the first steps toward discovering those things for themselves. After all, that's part of growth, too!

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 one app that you just cannot imagine living without?

DISCUSS THIS

1. On a scale from “I got this,” to “I can't do it,” how good are you at waiting for something?
2. What's one area a middle schooler might want to improve or grow in their lives?
3. If that kind of growth takes time, are you usually willing to stick with it? Why or why not?
4. Why do you think real growth tends to take a lot of time?
5. What can you learn from Jesus' response to temptation about waiting on growth to happen?
6. How do you think humility can help us grow?
7. What's one area of your life right now where you want to grow?
8. This week, what's one way you can:
 - a. Pursue that growth?
 - b. Ask for help when it takes time?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE 1)

As a Group, brainstorm ideas and patterns of behavior that help us grow in different areas of our lives. Write down everyone's thoughts on sticky notes and place them on a wall where your Small Group meets. Ask your students to pick their favorites by process of elimination until you land on four you can collectively commit to practicing as a group.

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE 2)

Read the scenario below to your Group. Ask them to discuss how they can grow in that situation, as well as demonstrate a balance of humility and confidence.

Scenario: Someone is spreading a rumor about you and your friend group, but it's not true. It's getting out of control and people are starting to post mean things on social media. What do you do?
