

SMALL  GROUP

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Worth Repeating / Week 2

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

At God's party, the invitation is for us all.

SCRIPTURE

"The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' "Sir," the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.' "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. (Luke 14:21-23 NIV)

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to see that faith in God is an open invitation to all of us and to help them take a step to receive or extend that invitation.

THINK ABOUT THIS

When it comes to a conversation about who should or shouldn't be invited or accepted at church, middle schoolers are quick to point fingers. It's easier for them to look outside of themselves and pinpoint behaviors, choices, or lifestyles in other people that should exclude them from God's party than it is for them to recognize or admit those things in themselves. That's why, in conversations like this one, it's better to speak in more general terms first (i.e., asking questions about "most middle schoolers") before getting them to think specifically about themselves. Just be careful to avoid letting them name specific names or point fingers within your group as the conversation unfolds!

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here.

DURING GROUP

ICE BREAKER

What celebrity do you want to invite you to their next party?

DISCUSS THIS

1. What's the best or coolest invitation you've ever received and how did it make you feel?
2. How would someone feel if they weren't invited or had been left out?
3. What's one way a middle schooler might feel left out or uninvited at church?
4. How does it make you feel to know that God wants a relationship with you?
5. In your own words, how would you describe "God's party"?
6. How might the way we'd determine the guest list at God's party look different than the way God would determine His guest list?
7. How might knowing that God's invitation is open to all people all the time change the way you think about . . .
 - Yourself?
 - Other people?
 - God?
8. This week, which of these do you need to focus on . . .
 - Believe I'm invited to God's party?
 - Receive God's invitation to the party?
 - Invite someone else to the party?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE)

Share who invited you to "God's Party" and who you invited as well! Continue the discussion by brainstorming how your students can invite others to follow God. Prompt each of them to think about who they'll invite and how they'll do it. Then, encourage them to set a goal to extend that invitation this week. Follow up to see how it went!
