



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

The Storyteller / Week 2

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

At Jesus' party, there's always room for more.

SCRIPTURE

Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.' 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.'" (Luke 14:16-21 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students see that they have the ability to affect the experience of others the way they include and invite others.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Leaders, it can be natural for groups to be closed. Students at this age are aware that inviting and including others can be awkward and difficult, but they may lack the self-awareness of how they can affect the experience of others. Even if a student may not feel like they have someone to invite, they have the ability to be inviting.

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

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where are some places/events you would invite a friend? Why?
2. Think about a time you were excluded from something. How did that make you feel?
3. Read Luke 14:16-21. How does this passage show us what God's Kingdom is like when it comes to inviting and including others?
4. What are some ways to make people feel like they belong here? What are some things that can make people feel uncomfortable?
5. What can make inviting or including others difficult, awkward, or intimidating?
6. **For upperclassmen:** What could make it difficult for someone you know to feel like they belong? Is belonging intimidating? Are there expectations?
7. **Don't miss this:** If you were to invite someone, what would you want their experience to be like?
8. Who is someone you can invite this week? What is one thing you can do to make sure they feel welcome this week?

TRY THIS

Leaders, this week, challenge your students to not only think of someone they can invite but decide as a group how they will welcome and include that person—from the time they get out of the car to when they come to small groups.