

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Echo / Week 2

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus prayed for unity so people could experience God's love.

SCRIPTURE

"I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me" (John 17:20-21 NLT).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to value unity and to take steps toward pursuing it in different places in their lives.

THINK ABOUT THIS

This week's conversation centers on the topic of unity. The goal is to encourage students to see the way working together toward a common goal can demonstrate God's love to the world. While your students may be familiar with the word "unity," it may still feel a little abstract. Instead of keeping the term broad, focus in on the specifics to help them get a better understanding. Talk about what unity looks like in specific places in their lives: with family, with friends, on a team, and even in your small group. Also, be sure to note that unity doesn't mean sameness. God made each of us unique and distinct, so sameness isn't the goal. Instead, unity allows for all of us in all of our uniqueness to work together toward a common goal without sacrificing the things that make us distinctly who we are.

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

Give each of your students a piece to a small puzzle and have them work together to solve the puzzle as fast as they can.

DISCUSS THIS

1. What's one example of something great that's happened because people worked together?
2. What's one thing that makes working together difficult?
3. How can you tell when a group of people aren't working together?
4. What's one example you've seen of Christians not working together?
5. What do you think someone who isn't a Christian might think about Christians when they see them not working together?
6. What's one example you've seen of Christians working together?
7. Why do you think Jesus prayed for unity above all else?
8. What might unity look like . . .
 - a. In your school?
 - b. With your friends?
 - c. In your family?
 - d. In your small group?
9. What's one step you can take toward creating unity in one of those places this week?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE)

Using a large poster board or canvas, have your group create a collaborative art piece that represents unity. Choose one student to start the painting/drawing, give them 30 seconds to contribute to the art, and then pass it to the next student until everyone has participated. Feel free to play some background music during this activity to enhance the creativity. Once your group has completed the painting, hang it up in your ministry room as a reminder of unity at work.