

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

What I Really Want / Week 1

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

We can experience God's best for us when we resist temptation.

SCRIPTURE

When a person is tempted, they shouldn't say, 'God is tempting me.' God can't be tempted by evil. And he doesn't tempt anyone. But each person is tempted by their own evil desires. These desires lead them on and drag them away. When these desires are allowed to remain, they lead to sin. And when sin is allowed to remain and grow, it leads to death (James 1:13-15 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students recognize temptations they may be facing and to take a step toward what God says is best for them in these areas of their lives.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Temptation might be a heavy topic for middle schoolers. Because of that, don't be afraid to let the conversation go light at times! Those lighter moments serve a purpose for students: to break up the tension they might be feeling around this subject and keep them engaged. Don't rush students through the conversation this week. Let the discussion and the XP play out as both will help frame their thinking around temptation. And remember, you may have students who open up about big things they're struggling with or confused about in regard to their own temptations. Be prepared to listen and support students who come to you with questions or struggles with their own specific temptations.

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

Which would you want the most right now: pizza or cheeseburgers?

DISCUSS THIS

1. What's one thing you really, really want?
2. What comes to mind when you hear the word "temptation"?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE) 1

As a group, brainstorm 10 things that are the most tempting for middle schoolers. Write each temptation on its own notecard. Together, rank the cards by putting the most tempting at the top and the least tempting at the bottom. Allow time for discussion and debate as you do this! There are no right answers for this activity!

3. How do you know when you're being tempted?
4. On a scale of 1 to 10, how easy is it for you to believe that God wants what's best for you?
5. What do you think is God's best for you?
6. How could choosing not to give into temptation now help you this week?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE) 2

Complete the YouVersion plan for this week together as a group. Read the first prompt during group time and discuss it together. Then, ask students to continue the conversation by reading and discussing in the app throughout the week.