

# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

## What I Really Want / Week 4

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### BEFORE GROUP

#### BOTTOM LINE

Giving into temptation doesn't have to be the end of the story.

#### SCRIPTURE

*Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me (Psalm 51:9-10 NLT).*

#### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students find freedom from temptations they've given into and forgiveness to move forward and walk a new path.

#### THINK ABOUT THIS

The focus is on forgiveness this week! When students give into temptation, we want them to find forgiveness from God, themselves, and others. But asking for that

forgiveness can be difficult to do! For starters, it requires a level of self-awareness—something middle schoolers are still developing. It also requires the humility to admit a mistake and the vulnerability to apologize for it. Both of those things are challenging for most adults, so you can imagine how a middle schooler might feel about them! The goal here is to encourage skill development in your few this week. You're working on helping them develop the skill to apologize and ask for forgiveness. That's something that will take time and practice! Be sure to remind them that the goal of the apology isn't to get them out of trouble or away from consequence; it's to receive the forgiveness they need to help them start over on a new path.

*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.*

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### DURING GROUP

#### ICE BREAKER

If you could only keep one, which one would you choose: Video games or Netflix?

#### DISCUSS THIS

1. Think of a character in a movie who did something they knew they shouldn't have done. What happened after that?
2. How might someone feel after they do something they know they shouldn't do?
3. What's one thing you think someone may need to hear if they've given into temptation?
4. Does knowing that God will never give up on you change anything for you?
5. What's difficult about receiving forgiveness when you give into temptation?
6. Who is the easiest for you to receive forgiveness from:
  - a. God?
  - b. Yourself?
  - c. Others?
7. Why is it important to ask someone for help in dealing with temptation?
8. What's one thing you never want to forget about dealing with temptation?

#### DO THIS (EXPERIENCE)

Hand out the provided letter and ask your few to fill in the blanks. They'll save the letter for when they give into temptation or mess up in the future.

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**I CAN**

# START OVER

GIVING INTO TEMPTATION ISN'T THE END OF MY STORY, AND THAT'S BECAUSE OF FORGIVENESS. THE NEXT TIME I MESS UP, I'LL READ THIS TO REMIND ME THAT I CAN START OVER NO MATTER WHAT I'VE DONE.

**WHEN I MESS UP . . .**

I'LL REMEMBER THESE THINGS THAT ARE TRUE ABOUT ME:

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I'LL REMEMBER THESE THINGS THAT ARE TRUE ABOUT HOW GOD FEELS ABOUT ME:

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I'LL FORGIVE MYSELF BY REMEMBERING THIS:

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I'LL DO THESE THINGS THE NEXT TIME I FACE THIS TEMPTATION:

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I'LL TALK TO THIS PERSON FOR ENCOURAGEMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

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I'LL TALK TO THIS PERSON FOR ENCOURAGEMENT: \_\_\_\_\_