

# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Worth Repeating / Week 1

## BEFORE GROUP

### BOTTOM LINE

God loves you even when you're lost.

### SCRIPTURE

*"So he got up and went to his father.*

*But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."*

*Luke 15:20 NIV*

*"For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate."*

*Luke 15:24 NIV*

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students recognize an area of their lives where they might be lost and to see how God's love can find and help them in that place.

### THINK ABOUT THIS

The concept of being "lost" isn't easy for middle schoolers to grasp. For starters, being emotionally or spiritually lost is an abstract concept that may be hard for their concrete-thinking brains. Additionally, their self-awareness is still developing so they may not yet be aware of or able to see how they might be lost. If they don't feel it, it's hard for them to know how they're experiencing it. Giving an example or two from your own life will help make this idea of being lost a little easier for them to not only understand, but look for in their own lives.

*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's the craziest, scariest, or funniest place you've ever gotten lost?

### DISCUSS THIS

1. Describe what it feels like to be lost.
2. What's one way a middle schooler might feel lost . . .
  - At school?
  - In their family?
  - In their feelings?
  - In their friendships?
  - In their decisions?
  - In their relationship with God?
3. In the parable we looked at today, which son do you relate to more:
  - The one who left home and got lost?
  - The one who stayed home and was lost?
4. Does knowing that God loves you no matter where you go or what you do change the way you think about Him? Why or why not?
5. What's one thing you can do the next time you're feeling lost?

### DO THIS (EXPERIENCE)

Pass out the provided keychain compass to each of your students. Explain that no matter where you are, a compass always knows what direction you're headed and will point you back to where you need to be if and when you get lost. God's love is the same! He loves us even when we're lost—enough to do whatever He can to help us take the next, right step. Encourage your students to be reminded of this truth whenever they look at their compass.