



Undefeated / Week 1

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Because of Jesus, separation is defeated.

SCRIPTURE

"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." 1 Peter 2:24 NIV

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split. Matthew 27:51 NIV

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To open students' eyes to the fact that Jesus died and rose again so that they don't have to be separated or feel separated from God.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Middle schoolers might struggle with the concept of separation from God. For starters, it's an abstract topic to grasp. On top of that, it may confuse them to hear that they could even possibly be far or separated from God. That's because at this phase, many of them haven't experienced this feeling yet. They don't know the difference between where they are now and where they could be in relationship to God. The goal isn't to point out things you see that might be causing separation from God in their lives, but instead, to encourage self-awareness. This will help them see not only how they might be separated, but more importantly, how Jesus changes that for them.

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 one thing you'd love to be undefeated at?

DISCUSS THIS

1. What's one example of the way a middle schooler might experience feeling separated from something they want?
2. How might being separated from something you want or someone important in your life make you feel?
3. What's one way you know you are close to someone?
4. What do you think it feels like to be close to God?
5. Do you think it's a bad thing to be separated from God? Why or why not?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE)

Put the light provided by your Ministry Leader in the center of your group and explain to students that it represents God. Ask your few to select a personal object that they happen to have with them that represents each of them as individuals. (This could be a backpack, piece of jewelry, phone, etc.) They'll think about how distant from or close to God they currently feel before they'll placing their personal object at that distance from the light. Have your students leave the object while you come back as a group to discuss what makes them feel that specific distance from God.

6. What's one reason a middle schooler might feel separated from God?
 7. How might knowing that Jesus died so you would never have to be separated from God again change the way you feel about . . .
 - Yourself?
 - God?
 - Your choices?
 8. This week, what's one step you can take toward believing, confessing, or receiving the fact that because of Jesus, you have a way to be close to God?
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