



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Underestimated / Week 1

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

LEADER PREP

CONVERSATION GUIDE

BOTTOM LINE

Never underestimate your faith.

SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 1:5 NLT; 1 Timothy 4:12 NIV

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To empower students to recognize that they can take responsibility for growing in their faith right now as middle schoolers.

THINK ABOUT THIS

In this phase, middle schoolers long to be viewed as mature. Even though by society's standards they're still kids for the most part, they see themselves as more grown up than ever before. That's why it's important for the adult voices in their lives (voices like you!) to encourage their sense of maturity rather than discourage it. The right encouragement in their lives can make the difference not just in the way they see themselves, but in what they believe to be true about who they are and the potential they have right now as middle schoolers.

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.

JUST FOR FUN

What's your favorite "underdog" story?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

I love those underdog stories! Isn't there something so great about seeing someone who is underestimated ultimately win?

1. Why do you think people like cheering for an "underdog"?
2. What's one thing you wish people understood or believed about middle schoolers?
3. What's one way a middle schooler might underestimate themselves when it comes to their faith?
4. How might your life and faith be different if you didn't underestimate yourself?
5. Tell us about one person who believes in you and never underestimates you. (Note: SGL, if you have a student who can't think of a person, remind them that they do have someone in their life that doesn't underestimate them . . . YOU!)
6. What's one area of your faith that you'd like to grow?
7. This week, what's one step you can take to work on growing and not underestimating that area of faith?

XP (EXPERIENCE)

Give each of your few the provided handout and ask them to write down one thing they're old enough to do. Take a photo of them holding their sheet and email or text it to them so that they can use it however they like; on social media, as a phone screen saver, etc.

I'M OLD
ENOUGH TO...