



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Underestimated / Week 2

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

LEADER PREP

BOTTOM LINE

Never underestimate your actions.

SCRIPTURE

1 Timothy 6:20 NIV; 1 Timothy 4:12 NIV

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to see the impact of their actions and begin to take ownership over the way they live, regardless of what others think or assume about them.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Taking ownership and responsibility for their actions isn't an easy task for middle schoolers. Thinking long-term and abstractly is challenging for students in this phase. That makes seeing the potential consequences of their actions a difficult thing to do. While it may be easy for them to name the ways the negative behaviors of others impacts them, it's harder for them to see or take responsibility for the negative impact their similar behaviors might have on those around them.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

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

Come up with a fun handshake your Small Group can use to greet each other!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

This week we're talking more about what it feels like to be underestimated. I think we can all relate to that feeling, so let's jump in!

1. What's one thing you think most adults think about middle schoolers?
2. What's one thing you think most middle schoolers think about adults?
3. How does it make you feel to see adults get away with bad behavior?
4. What's one reason it might be difficult for a middle schooler to own their actions?
5. How might your attitude about being underestimated change if you shifted your focus away from what others were doing and toward what you're doing?
6. This week, what's one thing we can do as a Small Group to help each other take responsibility for our past or future actions?

XP (EXPERIENCE)

Explain to your few that when things happen in their lives they have a choice: they can react (which is usually an emotional, unplanned action or thought that's typically negative) or they can respond (which is usually thought-out, productive, and positive). Scatter the provided scenario cards in the middle of your group and go through each scenario one-by-one. For each situation, talk about what it would look like to react and what it would look like to respond.

BONUS XP

As you end group today, challenge your students to memorize 1 Timothy 4:12 and come up with a plan for how you'll do it. Maybe it's sending text reminders to your group, using the provided phone lock screen verse, or reading the verse multiple times each day this week. Be sure to follow up the next time you meet to see how it's going!

SCENARIO 1

SOMEONE WHO YOU
THOUGHT WAS YOUR
FRIEND GOSSIPED
ABOUT YOU BEHIND
YOUR BACK.

SCENARIO 2

YOUR FRIEND DIDN'T
INVITE YOU TO A
BIRTHDAY PARTY THAT
EVERYONE ELSE FROM
YOUR FRIEND GROUP
WAS INVITED TO.

SCENARIO 3

YOUR PARENTS ASKED
YOU TO CLEAN UP
AFTER DINNER, BUT
THAT MEANS YOU'LL
MISS WATCHING THE
FIRST PART OF THE
BIG GAME ON TV.

SCENARIO 4

SOMEONE BUMPS INTO YOU IN THE CAFETERIA LINE AT SCHOOL AND MAKES YOU SPILL HALF OF YOUR LUNCH ON THE FLOOR.

SCENARIO 5

YOUR LITTLE SISTER DREW ALL OVER YOUR HOMEWORK AND NOW YOU'LL HAVE TO REDO IT BEFORE YOU TURN IT IN.

SCENARIO 6

FOR YOUR GROUP MATH PROJECT, YOUR TEACHER PAIRED YOU WITH A GUY IN YOUR CLASS WHO NEVER TURNS IN HIS WORK AND NOW YOU'LL HAVE TO PULL MOST OF THE WEIGHT TO GET A GOOD GRADE.