



SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

WEEK: 1

GOAL OF TONIGHT

Help students see how God's story intersects with their story and why that matters in their day-to-day life.

WELCOME & ICE BREAKER

WELCOME TO SMALL GROUP! To get to know each other, let's start with a little name game. First person says their name and an animal that they like that starts with the same letter (Ally Alligator). Second person says the first person's name and animal, and then their own (Ally Alligator, Sara Snake). Each person must go back to the first person in the circle and say everyone's name and animal. Last person has the hardest job, getting everyone's name right. Have fun with it!

BIBLE VERSES

Ephesians 6:10 (suggested version, NLT)

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS THE BIBLE VERSES

Begin with explaining that we'll be using the Bible as our guidebook this year. We want to find out more about God and about how following him can change our everyday lives. Tonight, we'll start in the book of Ephesians. Let's find out the answers to these questions first:

1. Who wrote the book of Ephesians (leaders -show them how to look at the beginning verses of Ephesians to find this out).
2. Who was it written to?
4. What kind of writing is this? (A poem, history book, letter or text message?) (That was a joke. No text messaging in Paul's time!)
5. Now read our verse for tonight: Ephesians 6:10.
6. This verse begins with the phrase, "A final word..." Why do you think Paul might use that phrase?
7. On a scale of 1 to 10, how important is a person's "final word" on any subject, usually?
8. What is Paul's final word to the people of Ephesus? What do you think it means?
9. As a middle school student in 2017, what are some things you could do this year to be strong in the Lord?

Close by praying as a group and asking God to help you grow in friendship with each other and with God this year.

Since it's the first night, we recommend a leader prays. Throughout the year, you can ask specific students to pray as they seem comfortable, have students pray together in pairs, do a "popcorn" style prayer or close in prayer yourself.

LEADER INSIGHT

Leaders - we suggest that you write down information about your students as you learn it, in a notebook or on your phone. Keep track of the important things they share, parents names, etc. This will help you throughout the year as you lead/guide/pastor them. And THANK YOU for taking on this awesome responsibility and privilege.

APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS

If your students have cell phones, suggest a text message thread for the year to share prayer requests and encourage one another. You will need their parents to know you are doing this, but you can let them know in the letter you send home.