



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

Since it's our first night together, we want to spend some time getting to know each other. Play this game: "Look Down, Look Up." Students stand in a circle with heads down. Leader says, "Look up," and students point and look at someone else in the circle. If they are looking at the same person who is looking at them -they are out and must share 1 fun thing they like to do. Last two standing are the winners.

BIBLE VERSES

Luke 7:41-43, (Suggested version NLT)

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS THE BIBLE VERSES

Every week we are together we are going to read a few verses from the Bible and discuss how they apply to our lives. It's amazing how the teachings in the Bible can help us out SO much when we are facing problems with friends or at home, when we are feeling down or when we need some guidance. Today we are going to begin by reading from the book of Luke:

Ask:

1. Who do you think wrote the book of Luke? (Tip: if you have time and your group seems interested, read Luke 1:1-4. It is crystal clear why Luke is writing this book - and your students might find that interesting).
2. Luke is one of many books in the Bible. Can anyone guess how many total books are in the Bible? (Answer;66)

Read Luke 7:41-43,

1. Do you guys know what a moneylender is?
2. One guy in this story owed 500 denarii and one owed 50. A denarius was equal to about 1 whole day's pay at that time. Why might the moneylender cancel the debts - or not make these people pay him back? (hint: they can be creative with their answers here)
3. Show me your facial expression if you are the person who didn't have to pay back the 50 denarii. Now show me your facial expression if you are the person who didn't have to pay back the 500 denarii. (Leaders - you can also just ask them to describe how those people might have felt, but acting it out might be more memorable and fun :-))
4. Jesus and Simon suggest in vs. 43 that the one who had more debt would feel more LOVE for the moneylender. This is a key word because we don't usually use the word LOVE when we are talking about money lending. What do you think Jesus was getting at here? (Leaders- see if they can connect the dots and see that the moneylender represents God in this story. If they don't -go ahead and suggest it for them).

Application questions:

1. What do you think God wants us to learn from reading these verses in the book of Luke?
2. In what way has God "paid" for our debts or taken care of what we "owe"?
3. What is one way we could show God that we are thankful that he canceled our debts by forgiving us?

LEADER INSIGHT

As you lead through these guides, you don't need to read every word to them. Paraphrase each question in your own voice, and feel free to skip around the questions as the conversation develops. There will be weeks you get through everything and weeks you don't. Ultimately, we want them to make a connection to God and to his word, and of course to you and other students.

APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS

As a group, think about ways you can stay grateful to God this week. Since things are just kicking off- this might be a great time to share phone numbers and start a text thread, if they have phones. Or you can let them get creative about how to be grateful.