SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

WEEK: 7

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

Does anyone have a good joke to start off small group today? If not- here are a couple you can share.
What do you call a dog that does magic? A labracadabrador.
Why don't koala bears hang around with all the other bears? Because they don't meet the Koala-fications.

BIBLE VERSES

Psalm 23

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS THE BIBLE VERSES

Tonight we are going to study one of the coolest Psalms. It's one that you may hear sometimes at funerals, but don't let that keep you from really checking it out today. It's full of lots of good thoughts about God. It was written by David.

Let's read the first few verses together: Psalm 23:1-3

1. David is painting a picture of what God is like in these first 3 verses. What does he say God is like?

2. What kinds of good things does David say God does for us?

Read on - this is the part you may have heard before: Psalm 23:4-5

3. Why does David say he won't be afraid if he goes through, "The darkest valley?"

4. For a middle school student, what might a "dark valley" look like? In other words- what kinds of problems might you face during the middle school years?

5. Why might it be helpful to read these verses when you are going through a rough time in life?

Lastly, read Psalm 23:6

6. David ends on a really hopeful note here - what does he say he is looking forward to?

7. David REALLY trusts God - and that helps him have this kind of hope. What kinds of things do you hope will happen because of your relationship with God?

LEADER INSIGHT

Tonight might be a night when students share something "dark" they are going through or have been through. That's great. Sharing it will be helpful for them, and allow you to pray with them and for them. Other students might not understand why we need God during difficult times- hopefully this Psalm and your discussion will help them see their need for God.

APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS

Challenge students to read this entire Psalm before bed every night this week. Challenge them to think about God has their shepherd, their hope, the one who walks them through tough times.