



# Small Group Leader Guide

## BEFORE GROUP

### BOTTOM LINE

Being a friend means serving your friends.

### SCRIPTURE

*So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him (John 13:4-5 NLT).*

*Do to others as you would like them to do to you (Luke 6:31 NLT).*

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage teenagers to think about what being a good friend to others looks like.

### THINK ABOUT THIS

This week, we're asking students to slightly shift their thinking on friendship. Rather than focus outwardly on what their friends are or aren't doing for them, we're asking them to focus on the kind of friend they are first. Your older students may be able to do this more easily than some of your younger students. Younger high schoolers may not have the self-awareness to know what kind of friend they are yet. Do your best to guide all your students toward recognizing the kind of friend they are now and find ways to encourage them toward making changes that will help them be better friends in the future. A great principle for students in any conversation is to avoid talking about people as if they're not in the room.

## DURING GROUP

### JUST FOR FUN

Is there anything you want to be sure you accomplish in your lifetime? What's on your bucket list?

### DISCUSS THIS

1. When has a friend done something kind or thoughtful for you that you didn't expect? How did it make you feel?
2. Why is it sometimes easier to notice how your friends treat you instead of how you treat them?
3. What's something Jesus' example of serving His friends teaches you about your own friendships?
4. What does it mean to serve your friends? How might serving your friends first change the friendships for the better?
5. Think about your friendships: how could following Jesus' example of serving first improve the relationships you have right now?
6. How would your friendships change if everyone in your friend group started treating each other the way Jesus treated His friends?
7. Together, let's brainstorm some ways to serve our friends. Let's come up with as many as we can!

### TRY THIS

Pick a group in your church to serve together. This may be helping the office team file papers, the kids team prep activities, the parking lot team set up traffic cones etc. As they serve, challenge them to make a new friend at your church by asking great questions. A great way to do this is to start a shared note of the best icebreaker questions you can think of (or ChatGPT can think of some you need help). Leaders, be sure to follow your ministry and church's guidelines for leader/student interactions.