



SMALL **lead small.** GROUP

# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

## How To See God / Week 4

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### BEFORE GROUP

#### BOTTOM LINE

Look for God every day.

#### SCRIPTURE

*“Go out and stand before me on the mountain,” the LORD told him. And as Elijah stood there, the LORD passed by, and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain. It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire (1 Kings 19:11-12a NLT).*

*And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And a voice said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” (1 Kings 19:12b-13 NLT).*

*But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23a NLT).*

#### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to see the value in looking for God in life’s everyday moments and to help them think about how they can do that in their own lives.

#### THINK ABOUT THIS

This is a great week to talk about specific spiritual habits your middle schoolers can develop to help them look for God in their everyday lives. Things like talking to God in prayer, hearing God through Scripture or worship music, seeing God in nature, in others, and in themselves, and talking to others about God in places like small group can be great places to start for them. So, as you talk about what it means to see God not just on the mountaintop but in every day, talk about tangible practices like these that help them do just that. Again, this isn’t about encouraging them to do more in order to be better followers of Jesus. That’s just not how it works! This is about helping them think concretely about what it might actually mean to look for God in the everyday.

*This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the content as needed, and don’t feel like you need to complete everything listed.*

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### DURING GROUP

#### JUST FOR FUN

If you were challenged to climb the world’s highest mountain, would you do it? Why or why not?

#### DISCUSS THIS

1. In your own words, what do you think it means to have a “mountaintop moment”?
2. What are some examples of the “mountaintop moments” we might have in our faith?

3. Why do you think it can be easier to see God in those moments rather than in our everyday lives?
4. How might a middle schooler feel when they don't see or connect with God the same way they do in those moments?
5. How does looking for the fruit of God's Spirit help us see more of God in the everyday?
6. What might change about your faith if you started looking for God in your everyday life?
7. This week, what's one way you can look for God at work...
  - a. In yourself?
  - b. In others?
  - c. In the world around you?

### DO THIS (EXPERIENCE 1)

Have your group sit in a circle. Give each student a notecard with the name of someone else in the group on it (secretly assigned). Ask them to write down which fruit of the Spirit they see in that person and why. Collect the cards and give them to the person each is about, allowing them to be affirmed by how others see God's work in them.

Then, ask your group these questions:

- How does it feel to be recognized for these qualities?
  - How can we encourage others in how they see God?
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