

# STUMIN

## SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

## MIDDLE SCHOOL FOCUS

### BEFORE I GO

**APRIL 12, 2023**

Week 2 of a 4-week series  
about Jesus' last words

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus prayed for unity.

### SCRIPTURE

*"I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one."*

- John 17:20-21a

### GOALS OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to value unity and to take steps toward pursuing it in the world around them

### >> BEFORE GROUP

**THINK ABOUT THIS:** This week's conversation centers on the topic of unity. The goal is to encourage students to see the way working together toward a common goal can demonstrate God's love to the world. While your students may be familiar with the word "unity," it may still feel a little abstract. Instead of keeping the term broad, focus in on the specifics to help them get a better understanding. Talk about what unity looks like in specific places in their lives: with family, with friends, on a team, and even in your small group. Also, be sure to note that unity doesn't mean sameness. God made each of us unique and distinct, so sameness isn't the goal. Instead, unity allows for all of us in all of our uniqueness to work together toward a common goal without sacrificing the things that make us distinctly who we are.

### >> DURING GROUP

*This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here.*

#### DISCUSS THIS:

- What's one example of something great that's happened because people worked together?
- What's one thing that makes working together difficult?
- How can you tell when a group of people aren't working together?
- What's one example you've seen of Christians not working together?
- What do you think someone who isn't a Christian might think about Christians when they see them not working together?
- What's one example you've seen of Christians working together well?
- Why do you think Jesus prayed for unity above all else?
- What might unity look like . . .
  - In your school?
  - With your friends?
  - In your family?
  - In our small group?
- What's one step you can take toward creating unity in one of those places this week?

#### DO THIS:

Cut the provided "Unity Puzzle" into as many pieces as people in your group today. Set out markers or crayons where everybody can share them. Encourage everybody to color their piece of the puzzle in a way that reflects their unique personality/interests/style. When everybody is finished, put the puzzle back together.

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## SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

HIGH  
SCHOOL  
FOCUS

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### GOALS OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to value unity and to take steps toward pursuing it in the world around them

### >> BEFORE GROUP

**THINK ABOUT THIS:** As the conversation focuses on unity this week, it's important to distinguish for your students what unity is and what unity is not. Unity is working together toward a common goal. It's being for one another, no matter our differences. Unity, however, is not sameness, and that's an important distinction to make. Choosing to pursue unity does not mean sacrificing the things that make us unique and different. Rather, it's celebrating and coming together with our unique differences. And that's something we can all do!

### >> DURING GROUP

*Create meaningful conversations. Adjust the questions as needed and ask thoughtful follow-up questions as the conversation unfolds. Don't feel like you need to answer every question.*

### DISCUSS THIS:

- What's one thing you have in common with most of your friends?
- In your own words, how would you define "unity"?
- What's one way you can recognize when people are unified?
- In your own words, how would you define "disunity" or "division"?
- Where have you seen division in places like...
  - Your family or friend group?
  - Your school?
  - Your community?
  - The church?
- How might division impact our faith?
- Of all the things He could've prayed for, why do you think Jesus chose to pray for unity?
- What might change if we chose to believe that we have a role to play when it comes to unity?
- What's one way you can pursue unity in a space in your world that needs it right now?
- On a scale of 1-10, how unified is our small group? Why did you choose that number? What practical things can we do to pursue greater unity in our group? What difference would it make?