

STUMMIN

SMALL GROUP
LEADER GUIDE

MIDDLE
SCHOOL
FOCUS

BEFORE I GO

APRIL 5, 2023

Week 1 of a 4-week series
about Jesus' last words

BOTTOM LINE

Remember
what Jesus has done.

SCRIPTURE

He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

- Luke 22:19 NLT

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students start recognizing and remembering the work Jesus has done and is still doing in their lives

>> BEFORE GROUP

THINK ABOUT THIS: A question we ask often is, "Where did you see God today?" It's designed to help students not just know that God is working in their lives, but to encourage them to see that work on a daily basis. This week's conversation will be a great jumping off point to help them answer that question! Recognizing the way God (or as noted in the message, Jesus) is at work in their lives isn't easy. As concrete thinkers in this phase, they may take the question literally. Because they can't physically see, hear, or feel God at work, they may be tempted to believe it isn't happening. Be quick to remind them what Easter shows us to be true: God will go out of the way to work for our good! The death and resurrection of Jesus demonstrate that in a major, life-changing way. And to help your students recognize that in their lives, share an example from your own life of how you've seen God at work. This will give them handlebars to consider how the same thing may look in their lives!

>> 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:

- Has there ever been a moment in your life that you didn't want to forget? Tell us about it!
- What's one way you remember something important?
- Why do you think Jesus chose to talk about the importance of remembering?
- What makes it easy to forget what Jesus has done for us?
- How does the Easter season help us remember the things Jesus has done for us?
- How does the Easter story impact our everyday lives?

DO THIS:

Hand out copy paper and set out markers or crayons where everybody can share them. Ask your students to draw a picture of something Jesus has done (from stories in the Bible or in their own life or in the life of people they know) that they don't want to forget. Have everyone share their drawings. As they share, ask the question, "How are you going to remember it?"

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THINK ABOUT THIS: Remembrance is like a muscle for our faith. And just like any muscle in the body, we must consistently work to build it and keep it strong. This week's goal is simply to help your students start doing their reps when it comes to remembering! A great way to do this is to encourage them to start asking, "Where did I see God today?" This simple question will turn their eyes to look for God at work in their lives daily and help them begin to remember God when they experience it. The more they remember today, the more they'll have to lean on in the future when their faith may be tested and challenged along the way.

>> 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:

- When you leave someone or some place, what's one thing you usually do before you go?
- Have you ever forgotten something significant that affected someone else? Tell us about it.
- How might forgetting impact our relationships in a negative way?
- What makes remembering significant things Jesus has done in our lives a challenge at times?
- Why do you think Jesus used some of His final moments to encourage His disciples to practice remembering?
- What might change about your faith now if you remembered what Jesus had done for you in the past?
- What's something you've seen Jesus do in your life that you want to remember? What's one practical thing you can do to help you remember this?
- What's one way you can make remembrance an active part of your faith?

DO THIS:

This week, challenge your students to test their remembering skills. Have each student share a "favorite" with the group. This could be a favorite food, movie, musical artist, etc. Tell them that the goal is to remember everyone's favorite things. Then, at some point this week do a "remembrance check-in" via text and have each teen text you individually the names and favorite things of as many group members as they can. The person who remembers the most names and favorites can win a small prize (or just bragging rights) the next time you gather.