

IN THE KNOW
Wk 1 of 4: In the Beginning...
Oct 5 & 6, 2019

LEADER PREP

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

For students to start examining where they get their thoughts on God and hear that the Bible is the best source.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 42:5-9

THINK ABOUT THIS

A lot of people have a lot of different opinions about who God is and what He is like. **What we think of God is called our theology. To be in the know on who God is, we should base our theology on what the Bible says is true about God. Today, help your group start examining: where do they get their information on God?**

Friends? Parents? Feelings? Church? TV? YouTube? The Bible? And help encourage your students to trust the most reliable and perfect source on who God is: God's Word!

The verses today use two big concepts you should **help ensure your students understand: covenant and prophesy.**

(1) A covenant is a binding agreement or promise that someone will do something. If God makes a covenant or promise with us, He will NEVER break it. Jesus is the symbol of God's covenant promised in these verses.

(2) A prophesy is a prediction of something that will happen in the future. When God makes a prophesy, it always comes true. We've talked about how God has a good PLAN for each of our lives, this is a part of God's PROPHECY for the world.

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. Let your students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.



CONVERSATION GUIDE

MAIN POINT

God is the Creator and Sustainer of everyone and everything.

GET THEM TALKING

Share different views people have about God. What do people say He is like?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Everyone call out a bunch of words that you believe describe God and let's make a list. (Leaders, write down all the answers students give – right or wrong – this moment is more about hearing where your students are than teaching.)
2. How do you form your thoughts about who God is and what He is like? (Your friends, your experiences, etc.)

READ ISAIAH 42:5-9 and answer the following questions:

3. How is God described in these verses?
4. What does it mean, in your own words, that God is our sustainer?
5. If God created us, who created God? (Trick question! The Bible says God IS the beginning, meaning He ALWAYS was and He will also ALWAYS be – mindblowing, isn't it?)
6. Do you agree with how these verses describe God? Why or why not?
7. Why do you think people have so many different opinions of who God is?
8. Where can you get reliable information on who God is?
9. How can we have honoring conversations with others who have different views of God without apologizing for our faith?

NEXT STEP

Isaiah 42 is a GREAT chapter to learn more about God. Read it on your own this week and journal about who you think God is. If you have any questions, ask your parent, a small group leader, or an older Christian to help you talk through them.

PRAYER GUIDE

God, thank you for creating us and sustaining us. Every time we take a breath, it's a gift from you! Please be with us this week and remind us how much you love us.

SCRIPTURE

MS students are concrete thinkers, so opening your Bible to read the Scripture with them is a preferred visual cue.

ISAIAH 42:5-9 (NLT)

“God, the Lord, created the heavens and stretched them out.

He created the earth and everything in it.

He gives breath to everyone,

life to everyone who walks the earth.

And it is He who says,

⁶“I, the Lord, have called you to demonstrate my righteousness.

I will take you by the hand and guard you,

and I will give you to my people, Israel,

as a symbol of my covenant with them.

And you will be a light to guide the nations.

⁷ You will open the eyes of the blind.

You will free the captives from prison,

releasing those who sit in dark dungeons.

⁸“I am the Lord; that is my name!

I will not give my glory to anyone else,

nor share my praise with carved idols.

⁹ Everything I prophesied has come true,

and now I will prophesy again.

I will tell you the future before it happens.”