

DON'T BE A JERK
Week 3/3: Lean In
November 23 & 24, 2019

LEADER PREP

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to stop worrying about the opinions of the crowd and focus on deepening positive relationships with a few friends.

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 12:18,
Galatians 6:2 & 9

THINK ABOUT THIS

There is great power in our words. In fact, Proverbs 18:21 says that our tongues hold the power of life and death - that is pretty intense! It's important to stop and think before we say or post something, "Is this building someone up or tearing the down?" If it isn't building someone up, maybe you shouldn't say it. When we do mess up and tear someone down, we should ask their forgiveness. By living this type of life that will help you not be stretched out by the hurtful worlds that the world may throw out. Your words have a huge amount of power in your students' lives. Lift them up with your words.

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



CONVERSATION GUIDE

MAIN POINT

Don't stretch your life thin over the crowd, instead lean in with your few.

GET THEM TALKING

What are some things that you compare yourselves to? Break up into pairs and set a time for 2 minutes for each pair to create a secret handshake. Ready+Set+Go!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do healthy friendships look like?
2. What do unhealthy friendships look like?

READ PROVERBS 12:18 and answer the following questions:

3. Who can explain in their own words the difference between "cutting remarks" and "word of the wise?"
4. Why do you think it's easier for people to say hurtful things online than in person?

READ GALATIANS 6:2, 9 and answer the following questions:

5. What does it mean to "bear someone's burden?" What's an example of someone doing this?
6. Think about a time a friend walked with you through a difficult situation. How did having your friend there with you help?
7. Think about the top 5 friends in your life. Think if they help or hurt your walk with Jesus. What can someone do if they are feeling stretched line in an unhealthy friendship?
8. How can we grow our friendships with those who help build us and our faith up?

NEXT STEP

First, stop and think if there is anything you've said to anyone that you need to ask forgiveness from God for. Second, pick one person this week you can encourage with your words.

PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students their prayer requests and close your time together in prayer. Give them a few silent moments to pray to God on their own, asking Him for any forgiveness needed and end thanking Him for His love and grace.

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

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 12:18 NLT

“Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing.”

Galatians 6: 2 & 9 NLT

“Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.”

“So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.”