



Gameplan: Wk 1/4
July 11 & 12, 2020

God's gameplan for us is to share His goodness by loving and serving others.

LEADER PREP

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that loving and serving others isn't a one-time-thing, but a lifestyle we live out every day.

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:10 &
Matthew 28:18-20

THINK ABOUT THIS

Showing and sharing God's love can be difficult for your middle schoolers for a handful of reasons. Living a life of love is an abstract concept that's hard to grasp in this phase, and students' past experiences and family dynamics can shape their idea of what love looks like. On top of that, middle schoolers are still trying to figure out their faith, who they are, and what exactly they do and don't believe. It's no surprise that they may not have figured out all the words to convey what it means to make love a lifestyle. But what they do have is the capacity to treat people in a way that communicates God's unwavering love.

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

Love is a lifestyle.

GET THEM TALKING

What is the funniest or strangest thing a teacher or coach has asked you to do?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share a story about a coach or teacher that impacted your life in a positive way.
2. In what ways is God like a good coach?

READ EPHESIANS 2:10 and MATTHEW 28:18-20.

Then answer the following questions:

1. What is God's gameplan for us?
2. How does God's game plan for our lives seem exciting?
3. How does God's game plan for our lives seem boring?
4. What's the difference between following God's game plan because you have to verses following the game plan because you want to?
5. What would it look like to go through your entire day without going out of your way to show love to anybody?
6. How would your life be different 10 years from now if you focused on loving others everyday?
7. As a group, make a list of at least 10 things students can do THIS week to serve others.

Here are some ideas to kick-start your group's thinking:

- a. Take out the trash without being asked
- b. Wake up early to make coffee or breakfast for your family
- c. Clean up after dinner
- d. Write an encouraging letter to someone
- e. Write a thank you note to someone in your life who helps take care of you
- f. Tell a friend something you admire about them
- g. Bake cookies and deliver them to your neighbors
- h. Play your sibling's favorite game with them

NEXT STEP

Set a goal for yourself: what's one thing we've said that you can do to love and serve someone else this week?

PRAYER GUIDE

Ask students for their prayer requests.
Close your time together in prayer.

SCRIPTURE

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

EPHESIANS 2:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.

MATTHEW 28:18-20 (NLT)

¹⁸ Jesus came and told His disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."