

**Represent**  
**Wk 1/4: Be Selfless**  
**January 9 & 10, 2021**

## LEADER PREP

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

- (1) For students to realize that how they treat their friends matters
- (2) For students to grow in how well they represent Jesus to others

### SCRIPTURE

Esther 3:5-6 & 13-14;  
Esther 4:15-17

### THINK ABOUT THIS

Middle and high school students give a great amount of power and weight to their friends. **That means your students hold a great amount of power and influence in their friends' lives.** How well are your students representing Jesus to their friends? You may have students all over the board on that and they may have never thought about that before. Preaching isn't the only way to share the Gospel; how your students treat their friends will most likely leave a bigger impact than the words they say. **The main goal for this series is for you to engage your students in conversations that help them reflect and grow in how they are treating their friends and representing Jesus through their character.**

*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

**Let's represent Jesus well by being selfless.**

### GET THEM TALKING

What are things that make someone a good friend?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some examples of things people who are known for being selfless may do to gain that rep?
2. Have you heard about Esther before? What do you know about her?

**READ ESTHER 3:5-6 & 13-14 and answer the following questions:**

3. In your own words, what kind of trouble were the Jews in?

**READ ESTHER 4:15-17 and answer the following questions:**

4. In your own words, what was Esther's plan?
5. How did this plan show Esther's faith?
6. How did this plan show Esther's bravery and selflessness?
7. To be selfless is to put the needs of others before yourself: What are things we can do to be brave and selfless like Esther?
8. What are some things you face that may make it hard for you to stand up for others?

### NEXT STEP

Don't answer out loud, but think: Who is someone you've been selfish with lately? A friend or family member?

Let's brainstorm out loud: How can we apologize to these people and be selfless with them this week?

### PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students to share their prayer requests and 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.

### ESTHER 3:5-6 & 13-14 (NLT)

<sup>5</sup> When Haman saw that Mordecai would not bow down or show him respect, he was filled with rage. <sup>6</sup> He had learned of Mordecai's nationality, so he decided it was not enough to lay hands on Mordecai alone. Instead, he looked for a way to destroy all the Jews throughout the entire empire of Xerxes.

<sup>13</sup> Dispatches were sent by swift messengers into all the provinces of the empire, giving the order that all Jews— young and old, including women and children—must be killed, slaughtered, and annihilated on a single day. This was scheduled to happen on March 7 of the next year. The property of the Jews would be given to those who killed them. <sup>14</sup> A copy of this decree was to be issued as law in every province and proclaimed to all peoples, so that they would be ready to do their duty on the appointed day.

### ESTHER 4:15-17 (NLT)

<sup>15</sup> Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: <sup>16</sup> "Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same. And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I must die." <sup>17</sup> So Mordecai went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.