



SMALL GROUP LAUNCH
Wk 1/5 You Belong Here:
Made to Make a Difference Edition
August 1, 2021



LEADER PREP

GOALS OF SMALL GROUP

- (1) Building healthy foundations to your small group
- (2) Getting to know each other

SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 10:24-25

THINGS TO KNOW

During your small group, you will lead students to fill out information cards.

These cards serve two purposes:

1) For you to get to know your students and be empowered to show up randomly in their lives – so keep this information and use it well to love on your students doing things like bringing them their favorite snack on their birthday, sending them an encouraging text out of the blue, showing up at their game, and introduce yourself to their parents.

2) For us to update information in our system to make sure we have accurate grade and contact info for students.

Please email a copy of the front page for all your students to your MSM Campus staff today. You can even snap a picture of each with your phone and email it before you leave!

Some Pro Tips:

1) We recommend keeping a few extra blank cards and giving them to any new students in your group over the next few weeks. Not all students are able to make it every week.

2) Get a folder to keep your information in and put reminders in your calendars for birthdays or other important dates in your students' lives.

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

We were made to belong with each other.

FILL OUT CARDS

Lead your students to fill out their information cards and collect them. If they are having trouble focusing long enough, ask them to complete the front side and pick 4 things on the back to fill in.

ICEBREAKER GAME

Pass the bag of skittles or M&Ms and ask each student to take 2 different colors but NOT eat them yet (they can after the game). After this is done, explain that each color represents a different question they are going to answer about themselves. **Everyone must answer at least ONE question. Have each student say their name & school as they share.** Feel free to come up with your own but here are options for each color:

Red: If you could eat one food for the rest of your life – what would you choose?

Green: What do you want to be when you grow up?

Yellow: Share a happy memory from growing up.

Orange: Sing a line from one of your favorite songs.

Purple/Blue: What is a movie you've seen in the last year or show you really like?

Brown: How did you meet your best friend?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

READ HEBREWS 10:24-25; answer the following questions:

1. What things are these verses encouraging people to do?
2. What are ways we can get to know each other this year?
3. What are ways we can encourage one another this year?
4. What is something you are looking forward to this year either in your life or in this small group?
5. What helps you feel more comfortable to share?

SHARE SOMETHING LIKE THIS

Middle school can be tough and Hope is a BIG church so it's easy to get lost in the crowd. However we don't want ANYONE to get lost in the crowd. **We want EVERYONE to have a place where they are known and can share.** This year I hope you become more and more comfortable to ask questions, share your thoughts, and get to know each other as we explore how we can grow in our relationships with Jesus together! And your other leaders and I are here to support you!

PRAYER GUIDE

Close your time together in prayer. Thank God for bringing you all together and ask Him to pour His love over each of you this week.

SCRIPTURE

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

HEBREWS 10:24-25 (NLT)

²⁴ Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”

LEADER CORNER

Welcome! Maybe you are new to leading a Small Group in MSM or you have a whole new set of students but we are excited for this new beginning in your Small Group! Hope is a BIG church and we really believe that Small Groups are the place for everyone to connect in a deep and meaningful way. **Small Groups are the place designed to make a big church small by offering genuine community. Thank you for stepping up** to be a Small Group leader this year (and hopefully beyond!). By your willingness to **be present** in these middle schoolers lives you are giving them something vital: a place to connect their faith to a community. This guide is designed to help you start off by **creating a safe place** for your teens to clarify, express, talk through, wrestle with, and grow in their faith as they navigate their already complicated and ever-changing middle school lives. Don't worry about teaching today as much as you focus on connecting and building relationships with your students. Let them know that you care and that in their crazy worlds there is a safe place with a caring leader they can come to be real and find genuine support. **This week is different than some others: it is less about teaching a lesson and mostly about connecting with your students.** Take time to go through the activity, laugh and hang out together. Open up your Bibles together to read Hebrews and remind your students you are there with them because you care for them!

Also, if you haven't read **Lead Small** (or haven't read it in a while) **we highly recommend reading it** to “up your leadership game.” Ask your campus staff for a copy!