



# FLIPPED DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 1



**MAIN SCRIPTURE:**  
Matthew 8:5-10 NIV  
**SECONDARY SCRIPTURE:**  
Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV

**MAIN POINT:**  
When your ability runs out, Jesus' ability keeps going.

**JESUS CONNECTION:**  
The world says it's all on you. Jesus says, "I got you."

## LEADER CORNER

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

For students to realize that not being in control is a good thing and that surrendering to God brings them freedom.

### THINK ABOUT THIS

It's nice to be in control, isn't it? Deep down most of us believe that we are the best person to be in charge of our lives. But who's really in control anyway? Even the most powerful person in the world has things that are outside of their control. Jesus met a man like that. This guy had assistants for his assistants. Everyone followed his orders. However, he understood something about authority that we could all learn from. He understood that when his ability had run out, Jesus' ability kept going. **Why do we struggle so much to control things in our lives? And how can trusting Jesus with those things flip our lives in a good way?**

### HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

*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

### GET THEM TALKING

What are different stresses, worries, or pressures high school students have? *\*Bonus idea part 1: Write these on post-it notes and place somewhere your students can see during your discussion.*

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are things people try to control in their lives?
2. How does losing control make us feel?
3. Why do we try to control things?

#### **READ MATTHEW 8:5-10 and answer the following questions:**

4. What amazed Jesus?
5. Why is it surprising that the Roman officer approached Jesus for help?
6. Why do we typically think of asking for help as a bad thing?
7. What was the result of the officer asking Jesus for help?

#### **READ PROVERBS 3:5-6 and answer the following questions:**

8. On a scale from 1-10, how much do you trust God wants the best for your life?
9. What are some areas in your life that you may be holding on too tightly or where your ability is running out?
10. *\*Bonus idea part 2: Rearrange the post-it notes in the shape of a cross to symbolize how we can trust God with these weights. You could even go one step further and have all your students write their name on a post-it and at it to the cross to symbolize Jesus has got their back.*
11. What would it look like if you gave control of those areas to our Loving God?

### NEXT STEP

Every single one of us has a decision to make: who is going to be in charge of our heart? We need to:

- 1) Realize that we're not in control & embrace it
- 2) Realize God cares for us more than we can understand
- 3) Surrender to God's control & authority

Surrender often starts with prayer. Take your fears, hopes, expectations, and disappointments and tell God about them. Set a time to talk to Him in prayer once a day this week.

### PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students to share their prayer requests and close your time together in prayer. Give them some silent moments during the prayer to surrender control of their lives to God.

## MAIN SCRIPTURES

### MATTHEW 8:5-10 NIV

“When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. <sup>6</sup>“Lord,” he said, “my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly.” <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, “Shall I come and heal him?”

<sup>8</sup> The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup> For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

<sup>10</sup> When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.”

### PROVERBS 3:5-6 NIV

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;  
<sup>6</sup> in all your ways submit to Him,  
and He will make your paths straight.”

## BONUS LEADER RESOURCE

### BACKGROUND TO

### MATTHEW 8:11-12

**Our verse cuts today right before some confusing statements Jesus makes,** but your students may ask questions about them or be in really mature places in their faith for you to talk about them. If so, here is some background context to Matthew 8:11-12.

READ Matthew 8:11-12.

What is Jesus talking about? Well let’s look at the terms He used. The “subjects of the kingdom” are the Israelites. The “darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” refers to hell. In Jesus’ day, much like ours, many people thought the religion you were born into was your religion. Jesus repeatedly spoke on how faith isn’t something you are born into but something you choose in your heart to live out. In these two verses Jesus is saying that many from outside the nation of Israelites, like this non-Jewish centurion, will be included in the kingdom of heaven because of their faith. He is also warning the Israelites that if they do not have faith then they will not be included in this kingdom.