HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

YOU BELONG HERE TEACHING GUIDE

WEEK 1

MAIN SCRIPTURE:
Zephaniah 3:17
Jeremiah 31:3

MAIN POINTS:
(1) You matter to God.
(2) You belong here.

JESUS CONNECTION:
Jesus loves you and wants to be in a personal relationship with you.

THE WHAT

WHAT are we talking about and WHY does it matter to me? (2-4 min)

ME

- Introduce yourself and share a personal story about how someone's words have encouraged you OR a funny story about someone picking on you with their words (stay away from depressing tone – keep it light)

WE

- Other people's words can matter a LOT to us.
- How often do you worry about what others say about you?
- It can be so easy to focus on the negative words people say – online, at school, at home, etc. but we don't have to let these words define us.

TRANSITION

- Do you know what words God says about you?

SO WHAT

So WHAT does this mean for my faith and life with God? (6-8 min)

GOD

- God says He actually DELIGHTS in YOU. It's not an obligation for God to love you, He chooses to love you.
- Read Zephaniah 3:17 together.
- In fact, there are a whole bunch of Bible verses that say: YOU MATTER TO GOD. Let's read a few together. *(Pro Tip: Have a different student read each Bible verse, if you have time you can prep them ahead of time to read).*
  - Jeremiah 31:3
  - John 3:16
  - Exodus 14:14
  - Romans 5:8
  - Ephesians 2:10
  - Psalm 139: 13-18
- Long before you were born: God LOVED YOU. These verses show us the BIG, INCREDIBLE love God has for us.
- How much does God love you? Through God sending Jesus, we can have a personal relationship with God.

NOTES

SO WHAT CONTINUED

JESUS CONNECTION

- God created you to be in a relationship with Him, but sin broke that relationship before we were ever born.
- Despite what some think, getting into heaven isn't about being "good enough" to get in because even one sin in our life is enough to keep us from heaven.
- Are we doomed then? No - God loves us SO much! God sent Jesus to die on the cross and rescue us from our sin and death. Through faith in Jesus….we have a way to God! Because Jesus CHOSE to die a painful death so that we could be saved.
- So how can we be saved? It's all about whether or not we CHOOSE to accept Jesus' sacrifice for us in our hearts, believe in God, and give Him our lives.

TRANSITION

- Not only do you matter to God: YOU BELONG HERE.

NOW WHAT

NOW that I know, HOW can I live this out? (2-4 min)

YOU

- Let me go back to a question I started off with: How often do you worry about what others say about you?
- HSM is a place where we want to love and encourage each other – where we don't have to worry about what others say or think about us because we know that no matter what – we belong.

WE

- HSM is a place where every high school student can belong. You don't have to pretend to be someone you think we want you to be – you can be yourself here.
- HSM is a place where we care for each other. You can be real here.
- Hope's mission statement is to "Love people where they are." That means this is a place for your friends to belong too, even if they don't believe in Jesus.
- God loves ___(insert your name here)_____ where YOU are.
- God loves ___(insert your friends' names here)_____ where they are.
- Our full mission statement is "To love people where they are and encourage them to grow in their relationship with Jesus."
- We want everyone to feel loved here and get to know Jesus more because we think He is literally the best thing ever.
- But it all starts with love. God loves you. We love you.

PRAY

- Close your time together in prayer.

NOTES