



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
  - <u>John 3:16</u>
  - <u>Exodus 14:14</u>
  - 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** 



> MAIN SCRIPTURES: Zephaniah 3:17 Jeremiah 31:3



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

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

# **LEADER CORNER**

### **GOAL OF SMALL GROUP**

For students to realize what God says about them is more important than what others say about them.

## THINK ABOUT THIS

High school can be a tough phase especially in regards to caring what others think. And now because of phones and social media, teens can be criticized, bullied, or even just feel left out all the time. Our students need to know they are worth way more than however many likes they get on their posts. Whether they are trending on social media or in the halls of their high school, they are worth so much that the God of the Universe sent His son to die to rescue them. HSM isn't meant to be another high school clique, we are meant to be a place where every high school student belongs. To do that, it's important for us to love students where they are and encourage them to grow in their relationship with Jesus.

### **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 is one positive thing that a parent, teacher, or coach has said about you? (ENCOURAGE EVERY STUDENT TO ANSWER).

# **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Who are different groups of people whose opinions of us can matter to us? (*Leaders, write each down on a post-it note*). Lead your students to include the below groups: friends, parents, God.
- 2. Let's arrange the post-it notes in order of whose opinion everyone thinks is most important.
- 3. Which post-it should be the MOST important opinion to us? Why?
- 4. Who is next? Why? Etc.

# READ Zephaniah 3:17 and Jeremiah 31:3.

# Answer the following questions together:

- 5. How is God's love for us described?
- 6. When we are hurt or worried about what others have said (or might say) about us, how can we rely on what God says about us?
- 7. How can we make HSM a place where everyone knows they matter to God and they belong here?

# **NEXT STEP**

Take home the list of YOU MATTER TO GOD Bible verses and put it somewhere you will see it often to remind yourself of what God says about you. For an extra challenge, pick a verse and memorize it.

### PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students to share their prayer requests and close your time together in prayer.

# **MAIN SCRIPTURES**

## Zephaniah 3:17 NLT

"For the LORD your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior.

He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs."

# Jeremiah 31:3 NLT

"Long ago the LORD said to Israel:

"I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself."

## **BONUS LEADER RESOURCE**

MORE YOU MATTER TO GOD: BIBLE VERSES

- John 3:16
- <u>Exodus 14:14</u>
- <u>Romans 5:8</u>
- Ephesians 2:10
- <u>Psalm 139: 13-18</u>