



THIS OR THAT WEEK 1: 11.7.21

LEADER PREP

SERIES TAGLINE

Our identity shouldn't come from comparing ourselves to others; our identity should come from what God says about us.

TODAY'S MAIN POINTS

(1) God doesn't compare you to others.

(2) Remember you matter to God and they matter to God.

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 10:12 NLT;
2 Corinthians 10:18 NLT;
Proverbs 4:23 NLT

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to shift their focus away from wanting to be like someone else, and instead focus on who God made them to be.

THINK ABOUT THIS

At this phase, middle schoolers mostly see themselves through their peers eyes. It may take many reminders over a great amount of time for your students to learn what it means to define themselves by God's view of them over their peers.

Create meaningful conversations. Adjust the questions as needed, and don't feel like you need to answer all of them.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THE CHECK IN

- How was everyone's week? Share Highs & Lows.
- Someone recap the main point of the message.

THE WORD

- On a scale of 1-10, how often do you think most middle schoolers compares themselves to others?
- Why do you think we compare ourselves to others sometimes?
- In 2 Corinthians 10 Paul points out we shouldn't compare ourselves to others. God doesn't compare us to others. How does it feel to know God doesn't want you to be like anyone else and He values YOU?
- READ Proverbs 4:23. How can we guard our heart from comparing ourselves to others?

APPLICATION

- Take home the YOU MATTER TO GOD Bible Verse handout. Put it on your fridge or mirror or somewhere you will see it. When you notice you are comparing yourself to others, focus instead on the fact you matter to God and they matter to God.

COMMUNITY BUILD

- We might even be tempted to compare ourselves to others in this group. We don't have to do that, we are all awesome and unique. As a group, let's build each other up. Leaders, take a moment to go around your circle and say one positive thing about everyone in your group.
- How can we connect outside of small group time and have fun together?

PRAY

We are going to close in prayer.
Anyone have any prayer requests?

1 CORINTHIANS 10:12 NLT

Oh, don't worry; we wouldn't dare say that we are as wonderful as these other men who tell you how important they are! But they are only comparing themselves with each other, using themselves as the standard of measurement. How ignorant!

1 CORINTHIANS 10:18 NLT

When people commend themselves, it doesn't count for much. The important thing is for the Lord to commend them.

PROVERBS 4:23 NLT

"Guard your heart above all else,
for it determines the course of your life.

NOTES