

LEADER PREP

MAIN POINT

Connecting with God helps us know Him better.

SCRIPTURE

John 15:5 NLT

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To inspire students to see the benefit in connecting with God in their everyday lives and empower them with a tangible way to do so.

THINK ABOUT THIS

The goal of this series is to help middle schoolers better know and connect with God by developing spiritual habits that bring their relationship with God the center of an everyday kind of faith. It's important to frame the conversation around connecting with God through relationship, not works. While we do want to encourage students to practice spiritual habits on a regular basis to grow in their faith, it's not to earn God's love but to know Him more. Be intentional about the way you talk about why we have these habits—not to please God, but to know Him more.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THE CHECK IN

- How was everyone's week + holidays? Go around and have everyone share 2 Highs & Lows, since it's been so long, to spend extra time reconnecting.
- Someone recap the main point of the message.

THE WORD

- READ John 15:5 NLT.
- Why can't a branch grow or produce fruit if it's not connected to the vine?
- How does this relate to our relationship with God?

APPLICATION

- SHARE with your students one way you connect best with God. Be specific and highlight how connecting with God this way strengthens your faith and builds your relationship with Him.
- ASK: What are things you do that connect you with God?
- Let's take a next step in connecting with God together this week! (Pass out this week's daily devo and help students with phones download the app and start the plan). Here is a daily devotional we can all take home and spend 5-10 minutes every day reading God's Word. Remember the goal is to make it a habit, so it's not about reading it all at once but reading a little bit every day.

COMMUNITY BUILD

- How can we connect outside of small group time and have fun together?

PRAY

We are going to close in prayer.
What prayer requests do y'all have?

JOHN 15:5 NLT

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing."

NOTES