

# FAITH IN

# REAL LIFE

MS  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
MINISTRY

Week 1  
Faith + Emotion  
3.6.22

## LEADER PREP

### MAIN POINT

**Even when I am not feeling it, I can still thrive in my faith.**

### SCRIPTURE

Luke 15:1-7

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students realize that faith runs deeper than our emotions.

### THINK ABOUT THIS

Our emotions change all the time, sometimes they can even feel like they change 100 times a day. In the teenage years, emotions can feel extra heightened and intense.

Emotions can toss us around like a storm tosses a boat on a sea, but our faith in God can be a firm rock under our feet. Help your students see God is deeper than their emotions, like the bottom of the sea. Think though for yourself: how do you pursue faith during feeling different emotions? What tips from your own life can you share with your students about pursuing God through feeling different emotions? Giving your students some practical examples from your life may help them see how they can pursue their faith when they are not "feeling it."

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### THE CHECK IN

- How was everyone's week? Share Highs & Lows.
- Someone recap the main point of the message.
- What was a time where you were really excited to do something or go somewhere?
- Tell us about a time you had to do something you didn't really feel like doing.
- Legitimately, is that a good reason for not doing something that is important? Why or why not? *(The goal of this question is to get to the idea that people live by the mantra of "doing what feels right to you". We want to push back on this, because our natural desires aren't always what is best for us.)*

### THE WORD

- READ Luke 15:1-7.
- What are some reasons the sheep in the parable may have been away from the others? (Maybe bad choices and mistakes. Maybe doubts never addressed. But maybe apathy—if the whole herd is moving with the shepherd and that one isn't feeling it and stays stuck?)
- In your own words, what is apathy? *(lack of interest, passion, or concern)*
- When have you felt apathetic before?
- What about in regards to your faith?
- Even when you are away from God and you feel apathetic, what does Jesus do?

### APPLICATION

- Please know you can always talk to me more about this - I'm here for you. Who are other adults in your life you can talk to about this?
- DO THIS: Give out paper + pens. Have students write down any questions they have on this topic. Over the next few weeks, we will try to answer these questions. If you don't have any, just write you don't have any so everyone feels comfortable writing.

### PRAY

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

## LUKE 15:1-7 NLT

"Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. **2** This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them!

**3** So Jesus told them this story: **4** "If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? **5** And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. **6** When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' **7** In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!"

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## NOTES