



LEADER PREP

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students realize the importance of being in a relationship with the people in their small group and with God.

MAIN POINT

God's plan for relationship is a gamechanger.

MAIN SCRIPTURES

Genesis 2:18-22 NIV
Matthew 22:37-38 NIV

THINK ABOUT THIS

"Students don't care what you have to say until they know you care."

Building relationships is a crucial part of discipleship...so during this series we are shortening our discussion times so that your group can have extra time building relationships together in fun ways.

Each week will have one fun activity picked for every group to do together. Some groups will fly through this, so we have **extra activity ideas** for you all to do together to continue to bond if that's your group.

Having fun is a main value of Hope Family Ministry because it's such a foundational way to show kids and students we truly care about them – so enjoy your time together and take moments before and after small group to really get to know your students.

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.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

GET THEM TALKING

- How was everyone's week? Share Highs & Lows.

DO TOGETHER

Match the Fact – Have each student write 2 facts about themselves on 2 index cards/pieces of paper. Collect the facts and mix them up. Students need to match the facts with the correct person

Supplies Needed: Index Cards/Paper, Pens

INTO THE WORD

READ MATTHEW 22:37-28 and answer the following question:

- Why do you think Jesus said this is "the Greatest Commandment?"

NEXT STEP

- As we spend time together, we want to be a group that grows wise together. Let's create a group code to help this group become such a group:
- **LEAD YOUR GROUP TO CREATE THEIR OWN CODE**, giving them ownership in the process. Have all your students sign it.
- **Openness.** We will seek to be open and honest with each other; to take off our masks and be accepted for who we are.
- **Confidentiality.** We agree that whatever is shared in small groups stays in small groups. No gossip!
- **Inviting.** We agree this is a place we want any new people and our friends to feel welcome to join.
- **Respect.** We agree to respect each other.
- **Fun.** We want this to be a place where we can hang out and be friends together.
- **Encourage.** We want this to be a place where we encourage each other to be ourselves and grow in our relationship with Jesus.

PRAYER GUIDE

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

MAIN SCRIPTURES

Scripture is provided for convenience, but we prefer you and your students open your Bibles to read the Scripture. This helps your students learn how to find Scripture in their Bibles and where these verses are in the larger context of God's Word.

Genesis 2:18-22 NIV

¹⁸ *The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."*

¹⁹ *Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. ²¹ So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.*

Matthew 22:37-38 NIV

³⁷ *Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'*

³⁸ *This is the first and greatest commandment.*

LEADER CORNER + NOTES