



LEADER PREP

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To give students a space to process questions about their identity and to point them to the truth that, because of Jesus, who they are is enough.

MAIN POINT

You don't have to prove you're enough.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

John 6:1-15 + Ephesians 2:10 NLT

THINK ABOUT THIS

At this phase, students feel tremendous pressure to decide who they are, but they're still just beginning to discover themselves. Take some of the stress off by reminding them that defining who they are is not a destination they reach, but a lifelong process. Encourage them to know that no matter how their interests, talents, and life circumstances change, Jesus says they are enough.

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.
- Someone recap the main point of the message in your own words.
- BONUS – PREP NEEDED: Leaders, read the social media bio of other leaders', celebrity influencers or musicians. (Maybe even sneak in a bio of one of your students.) Have the group guess who the bio belongs to.
- INTERACTIVE: Give each student in your group 10 post-it notes and have them write down 10 words that people use to describe themselves. Place all the post-it notes on the wall. (Ex: leader, creative, life of the party, helpful, likeable, etc.)
- When you don't feel like you are enough, do you tend to respond by hiding, going out of your way to prove yourself, or something else?
- In what ways do you think we connect our identity to our image and performance?

INTO THE WORD

1. Who can briefly recap John 6:1-15 (leaders be ready to help fill in any gaps)?
2. What can we learn from this story for our own lives?

READ Ephesians 2:10 NLT and answer the following questions:

1. What is one thing you'd do differently if you believed Jesus sees you as a masterpiece??
2. What's one way that you can remind yourself of how Jesus sees you?

NEXT STEP

As a group, how can we encourage each other in memorizing Ephesians 2:10 this week?

PRAYER GUIDE

We are going to close in prayer. 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.

EPHESIANS 2:10 NLT

¹⁸ One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. ¹⁹ Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” ²⁰ And they left their nets at once and followed him.

JOHN 6:1-15 NLT

After this, Jesus crossed over to the far side of the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberias. ² A huge crowd kept following him wherever he went, because they saw his miraculous signs as he healed the sick. ³ Then Jesus climbed a hill and sat down with his disciples around him. ⁴ (It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration.) ⁵ Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, “Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?” ⁶ He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip replied, “Even if we worked for months, we wouldn't have enough money to feed them!”

⁸ Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up. ⁹ “There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?”

¹⁰ “Tell everyone to sit down,” Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.) ¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted. ¹² After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, “Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted.” ¹³ So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves.

¹⁴ When the people saw him do this miraculous sign, they exclaimed, “Surely, he is the Prophet we have been expecting!” ¹⁵ When Jesus saw that they were ready to force him to be their king, he slipped away into the hills by himself.

LEADER CORNER + NOTES