



## LEADER PREP

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students see that they belong and to have a healthy conversation on if your small group a place where everyone feels like they belong.

### MAIN POINT

**You belong here.**

### MAIN SCRIPTURE

Acts 16:13-15, 40 + Galatians 3:26-28

### THINK ABOUT THIS

At this phase, friendships are constantly changing. Belonging is one of the most important things to students. That's why one of the best things you can do as a leader is create a small group where students belong no matter what. This may be a good week to ask students how they feel about small group and if it truly is a place they feel like they belong. A big goal of Hope Student Ministry that is so important to us it's part of our culture, is that every student feels they belong here.

*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.
- What are some things (could be good or bad) that people do to try to belong or fit in somewhere?
- HIGH SCHOOL: Why do you think it's such a big deal for us all to have a place we belong?
- Where do you feel like you can be yourself the most? (*Leader note: Pay special attention to the student who doesn't have an answer to this question. Spend extra time getting to know them and making them feel like they belong in your group.*)

### INTO THE WORD

**READ Acts 16:13-15 + 40 NLT and Galatians 3:26-28 NIV and answer the following questions:**

1. Do you believe you can really be yourself with God? If so, how does that belief make your life look different? If not, why not?
2. How would you treat people differently if you believed everyone could be themselves and still fit in with God and God's people?
3. As a student ministry or small group, what are some ways that we can show people they belong when they show up here?

### NEXT STEP

Ask your group "Who's not here that we miss?" or "Who from our group haven't we heard from in a while?" Take a moment and have the group text those people in order to remind them that they belong.

### 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.

### ACTS 16:13-15 + 40 NLT

<sup>13</sup> On the Sabbath we went a little way outside the city to a riverbank, where we thought people would be meeting for prayer, and we sat down to speak with some women who had gathered there. One of them was Lydia from Thyatira, a merchant of expensive purple cloth, who worshiped God. As she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying. She and her household were baptized, and she asked us to be her guests. "If you agree that I am a true believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my home." And she urged us until we agreed....

<sup>40</sup> When Paul and Silas left the prison, they returned to the home of Lydia. There they met with the believers and encouraged them once more. Then they left town.

### GALATIANS 3:26-28 NIV

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, <sup>27</sup>for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

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## LEADER CORNER + NOTES