

LEADER PREP

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to see themselves through the lens of God's Word.

MAIN POINT

Reading the Bible can help us see ourselves clearer.

MAIN SCRIPTURES

Hebrews 4:12, James 1:23-24, + Psalm 119:73

LEADER CHALLENGE

To be a key influence in the lives of your students means more than just showing up on Sunday. Find a way to reach out to your students and show them love and encouragement outside of Sunday this week.

BONUS IDEA: Since we are talking about selfies, take a selfie with your group this week, print it and mail it to your students with an encouraging note.

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 you love or hate selfies? Why?
- Someone recap the main point of the message in your own words.

INTO THE WORD

READ HEBREWS 4:12 and PSALM 119:73 and answer the following questions:

1. Is God saying our Bibles are going to magically turn into swords and start fighting us? What do you think He is saying here?
2. Why is it important to be self-aware?
3. HSM Students: What truths in the Bible can you think of that can expose people's inner thoughts and desires?

READ JAMES 1:23-24 and answer the following questions:

1. In your own words, how is reading the Bible like looking in the mirror?
2. What is something you've learned about yourself by reading, or hearing, the Bible?
3. What are things we can do to not "forget our reflection" or not forget what God's word has shown us about ourselves?

NEXT STEP

Since this series is all about God's Word, our next step is going to be doing a Bible Devotional Plan together.

Ask your students who started last week: how is it going? Invite new students to read the Bible every day this week with your group. If someone is behind or just starting encourage them to read 2 a day until they catch up. Remind them the readings are short, and they can do it!

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.

HEBREWS 4:12 (NIV)

"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

PSALM 119:73 (NIV)

"Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn your commands."

JAMES 1:23-24 (NIV)

"Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like."

LEADER CORNER + NOTES