

WEEK 1

DISCUSSION GUIDE for middle schoolers

THE MAKING OF



THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

Spending time with God can make us more like Jesus.

BIBLE

Exodus 34:29–31; Romans 12:12

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Every movie has a director who helps shape the vision as it moves from words on a page to something we experience. This week, we'll hear the story of Moses after he came down the mountain after spending time hearing directly from God. This story teaches us how spending time with God can make us more like Jesus.

Let's Break the Ice:

- If someone were to make a movie about your life, what would it be called, and who would you want to play you in the movie?

OR

- Share highs and lows

Before We Open the Bible

- Before we open the Bible and get into the Word this week, what stood out to you from today's message?
- Have you ever had a moment where you encountered God like Moses did, where it seemed to change or transform you? If you have, what was that like? If not, is that something you hope for?
- Today's main point was "Spending time with God can make us more like Jesus". What does it mean/look like to be "more like Jesus"?

Bible Study

- Read Together: As a group, read Romans 12:9-21
 - *Telos Bible Page Numbers: pg. 1111*

Discussion Questions:

- What does Romans 12:9-21 have to do with becoming more like Jesus?
- Why is God a necessary part of becoming the type of person Paul describes in Romans 12:9-21? Do you think it's possible to become people like this without spending time with God? Why or why not?
- In verse 12, Paul gives three commands: Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer. Which of these do you feel like you struggle with? Which of these do you feel like you're pretty good at?

Make it Real:

- At the end of the day, our lives are either directed by ourselves, others, or we allow God to direct our lives. Taking an honest look at your own life, who would you say is directing the way you live? Be honest, and trust that this is a safe place.
- For anyone who says that God directs your life, can you share about the joy you experience in that? (If no one is willing to share, this is where the Small Group Leader can paint a picture of a life well lived with Jesus at the center.)

GROW DEEPER - OPTIONAL) Discipleship Moment:

Be Faithful in Prayer: Pass out the “Prayer practices” printouts and encourage students to keep them somewhere visible this week as a reminder of how they can pray in ways to build their connection to God.

Partner Check-In: Pair students up and have them commit to checking in with their partner sometime during the week or during your next gathering.