

STUMMIN

SMALL GROUP
LEADER GUIDE

MIDDLE
SCHOOL
FOCUS

AFTERLIFE APRIL 28, 2021

Week 4 of a 4-week series
about Easter

BOTTOM LINE

Because of the resurrection,
we can know new and
abundant life.

SCRIPTURE

*This means that anyone who
belongs to Christ has become
a new person. The old life is
gone; a new life has begun!*

- 2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT

*I came that they may have life
and have it abundantly.*

- John 10:10b ESV

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students recognize
that, because of Jesus,
everybody has the potential
to change.

>> BEFORE GROUP

THINK ABOUT THIS: You have the amazing opportunity to speak a lot of life into your middle schoolers this week! And in some cases, you may be the only person doing this. That's a huge deal! So be sure to really encourage the positive potential you see in them as individuals. They may struggle to believe they can make any changes to reach that potential. That's because they live firmly in the here and now. They see "what is now" as "what will be forever," so the idea that anything and anyone can change can be challenging. But your voice telling them that there's more for their lives and their futures can help encourage them that it is, in fact, possible.

>> DURING GROUP

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.

DISCUSS THIS:

- What things changed for you because of COVID 19? How did you respond to these changes? Do you feel like you have changed because of the circumstances of the past year? If so, how have you changed? Was it a change for the better?
- What is your favorite movie/book/TV show in which a character changes for the better by the end of the story? What, specifically changed about them? Why do you think "before and after" stories can be so powerful?
- Think back to kindergarten. In what ways, big and small, have you changed since then?
- What's one thing you've changed your mind about recently?
- If you had a magic button that allowed you to change one thing about yourself, what would you change? Why?
- Do you think it's possible for anybody to change? Why or why not?
- How does it feel to know that Jesus believes anybody can change?

DO THIS:

Lead this activity where students affirm their ability to change. Go around your group and have each person say the following statements out loud: "I believe I can change." "Jesus believes I can change." "I believe others can change."

DISCUSS THIS:

- Which one of those three statements is the most difficult for you to believe?
- This week, what's one thing you can do to help yourself remember that statement is true?

STUMMIN

SMALL GROUP
LEADER GUIDE

HIGH
SCHOOL
FOCUS

AFTERLIFE APRIL 28, 2021

Week 4 of a 4-week series
about Easter

BOTTOM LINE

Because of the resurrection,
we can know new and
abundant life.

SCRIPTURE

*This means that anyone who
belongs to Christ has become
a new person. The old life is
gone; a new life has begun!*
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT

*I came that they may have life
and have it abundantly.*
- John 10:10b ESV

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students recognize
that, because of Jesus,
everybody has the potential
to change.

>> BEFORE GROUP

THINK ABOUT THIS: As humans, we are naturally tempted to believe we can predict the future. As leaders, that temptation is even more powerful. It's easy to look at a kid and assume we know how they'll turn out. The truth and the beautiful message of Jesus is that WE DON'T KNOW. A lot can happen in four years, and even MORE can happen in a lifetime. No matter how a teenager behaves now, we can't see the end of their story, and it is our job to speak, behave, and interact as if there is always hope they can change...because there is. Conversations about change can be tricky. While talking about bad habits/behaviors, be mindful of the struggle that your students may be facing and direct your conversation to be understanding and helpful.

>> DURING GROUP

Create meaningful conversations. Adjust the questions as needed and ask thoughtful follow-up questions as the conversation unfolds. Don't feel like you need to answer every question.

DISCUSS THIS:

- What's something you've changed your mind about over time? Food? TV shows? Music?
- Think about 6th grade. In what ways, big and small, have you changed since then?
- Share a story about a time you said or thought one of the following statements: "It is what it is," "That's just who I am," or "That's just who they are."
- If you had a magic button that allowed you to change one thing about yourself, what would you change? Why?
- What is a bad habit or behavior you've tried to change in the past but haven't been able to? Why is making that change in your life such a struggle?
- Prior to encountering the resurrected Jesus, do you think John, Mary or Peter thought they would change? Why or why not?
- John, Mary, and Peter changed because Jesus showed that He loved and believed in them. What would it look like in high school to treat someone like they can change? How can we encourage others and believe the best about those around us?
- Who's someone in your life that has seen potential in you? How did it make you feel when they invested in you? How can you do that for someone else?
- From today's message: "If you want to see change in your life, start by spending time with Jesus." What are some practical ways we can spend time with Jesus?
- What things from your "old life" do you need to let go of for "new life" to begin?
- What would "abundant life" look like for you right now?