

STUMIN

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

MIDDLE SCHOOL FOCUS

I WONDER

FEBRUARY 15, 2023

Week 3 of a 3-week series
about the relationship
between science and faith

BOTTOM LINE

Build your faith
on what matters most.

SCRIPTURE

*"One thing I do know.
I was blind but now I see!"*

- John 9:25b NIV

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To point students
toward making Jesus the
foundation of their faith.

>> BEFORE GROUP

THINK ABOUT THIS: Science isn't the enemy. It never has been, and it shouldn't be. Science is our best method for exploring the visible, testable, and repeatable world. Our faith is about trusting in what is unseen. In that way, the two are complimentary ways of getting at the great big picture of reality. When we begin to consider that faith and science together provide the greatest clarity, then we'll be able to build on a solid foundation.

>> 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:

- Tell a story about a time you built something, but it didn't last. (For example: a snowman, a sand castle, a tower of blocks) Why didn't your creation last?
- What are some faith-based traditions in your family? Are they meaningful to you? Why or why not?
- What are some of the first Bible stories you remember hearing? Who told them to you? What is your favorite Bible story? Why is that one your favorite? What life lessons have you learned from stories in the Bible?
- Have you heard today's story about the blind man and Jesus before today? If not, what did you learn from it? If so, did you learn anything new from it today?
- Where did you see God today?

DO THIS:

As a group, brainstorm a list of things that you DO know about God and/or Jesus.

- How do you know these things?
- How does knowing these things about God help you when you are faced with things you don't understand about God or science?
- What do you think is the most important thing to know about God?

DO THIS:

Today's message contained a promise: God loves you and wants a relationship with you. Using the provided Feelings Wheel, what words describe how this promise makes you feel? Discuss why you chose the words you did.

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>> 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 are some of the building blocks you've built your life on? To help you think about this, consider these questions:
 - ◊ What matters most to you?
 - ◊ What is the thing, person, or thought that takes up most of your time or energy?
 - ◊ Is this something you'd say is a sturdy foundation for your life?
- What are some building blocks of your faith? (Bible stories, family traditions/expectations, camp experiences, etc.) How have they helped to build your faith? Are they a sturdy foundation for your faith? Why or why not?
- How did you view the relationship between God and science when you were younger? In what ways has that changed as you've grown up?
- Share a story about a life-changing personal encounter with God that has been foundational in your faith.
- How has your faith helped you to see things more clearly?
- When has your faith been challenged? What was the source of the challenge? How did you respond to the challenge? Did the challenge weaken or strengthen your faith?
- "God shows up in your life in real ways every single day."
 - ◊ How did God show up in your life today?
 - ◊ Is it sometimes hard to recognize the presence of God in your life? If so, why?
 - ◊ What are some things you can do to become more aware of God's presence all around you?

DO THIS:

Using the provided Feelings Wheel, what words describe how it feels to know that God loves you and wants to have a personal relationship with you? Discuss why you chose the words you did.