

STUMIN

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

MIDDLE SCHOOL FOCUS

STEP BY STEP

NOVEMBER 2, 2022

Week 2 of a 5-week series
about transformation

BOTTOM LINE

Stay in step with the Spirit
and be transformed.

SCRIPTURE

*But the fruit of the Spirit is
love, joy, peace, [patience],
kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness
and self-control.*

- Galatians 5:22-23a NIV

*Since we live by the Spirit, let
us keep in step with the Spirit.*

- Galatians 5:25 NIV

*"I am the vine; you are the
branches. If you remain in
me and I in you, you will bear
much fruit; apart from me you
can do nothing."*

- John 15:5 NIV

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to
find ways to connect with
God and see the Holy Spirit
at work in their lives



>> BEFORE GROUP

THINK ABOUT THIS: Keep in mind that the goal of this week isn't behavior modification. It isn't about doing more, trying harder, or working on ourselves in our own way. Instead, the goal is transformation. It's about becoming these things through the work of the Holy Spirit. This is a huge distinction to talk through with your students this week, as they may initially lean toward thinking that it's up to them to become more loving, more patient, more joyful, etc. Remind them that the goal is to see and allow the Holy Spirit to change them, step by step! In fact, this is the goal of everything we're teaching in this series! It's not about us; it's about God and the work the Holy Spirit can do in our lives to transform us into the character of Jesus.

>> 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's the first thing that came to your mind during the message when asked: "What's the one thing you most need to make your life better?" Share about why you initially picked that thing. How would it make your life better?
- Have you ever received a material thing you really wanted to own or done something you really wanted to do, but it didn't make you feel the way you expected it to? If so, share about that experience.
- If you were the main character in a show about your life, what would your show be called?
- What fruit of the Spirit would people see the most on your show? [Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, or self-control]
- What fruit of the Spirit would people see the least? [Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, or self-control]
- Have you ever tried to change something about yourself? If so, what was it? Were you successful?
- What's the difference between trying to change ourselves and allowing God to change us?
- What's one thing you want to see the Holy Spirit change in you?

STUMIN

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

HIGH SCHOOL FOCUS

STEP BY STEP

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about transformation

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>> BEFORE GROUP

THINK ABOUT THIS: The Spirit is an abstract concept, specifically for younger high school students or those who are new to church or faith. This week, you want to help students process their understanding of God, Jesus, and the Spirit as unified on the mission of offering them a renewed, transformed life. While you don't want to give them all the answers or preach a second message, you do want to be a guiding voice, asking great questions, as you help them understand God in this way.

>> 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 does it mean to have a full life?
- What's the first thing that came to your mind during the message when asked: "What's the one thing you most need to make your life better?" Share about why you initially picked that thing. How would it make your life better/fuller?
- Have you ever thought something would make your life more full, only to discover that it didn't? Tell us about it.
- Which do you think is harder: doing something or becoming something? What's the difference between the two?
- What do you think it means to "stay in step with the Spirit"? Brainstorm some concrete examples of what it could look like?
- What obstacles do you think you would face when trying to stay in step with the Spirit?
- How might staying in step with the Spirit help you become more of who God made you to be? How can it help lead you to a full, good life?
- Have you ever accomplished a big task or reached a challenging goal? Tell us about it. What small steps did you take along the way? Did you see the Holy Spirit at work in any of it?
- What are some ways you stay connected to God outside of StuMin?

TRY THIS:

Ask your group if they have ever heard of or used the social media app *BeReal*. Have someone explain it to anybody who doesn't know what it is. Research it together if nobody is familiar with the concept. Challenge your group with a *BeReal*-style activity throughout the week. At a random time each day, send out a group chat message. Everybody should reply to the message ASAP with one way they are seeing the Holy Spirit at work in their life at that moment.