

# STUMMIN

SMALL GROUP  
LEADER GUIDE

MIDDLE  
SCHOOL  
FOCUS

## LIKE ME

NOVEMBER 11, 2020

Week 2 of a 3-week series  
about comparison

## BOTTOM LINE

The more I celebrate others,  
the more I like me.

## SCRIPTURE

*As they danced, they sang:  
“Saul has slain his thousands,  
and David his tens of  
thousands.” Saul was very  
angry; this refrain displeased  
him greatly. “They have  
credited David with tens of  
thousands,” he thought, “but  
me with only thousands.  
What more can he get but  
the kingdom?” And from that  
time on Saul kept a close eye  
on David.*

- 1 Samuel 18:7-9 NIV

*When Saul saw how  
successful [David] was, he  
was afraid of him.*

- 1 Samuel 18:15 NIV

*A heart at peace gives life to  
the body, but envy rots the  
bones.”*

- Proverbs 14:30 NIV

## GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students combat  
jealousy by learning to  
appreciate the giftedness  
of others and to celebrate  
their successes.

 **PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect

## >> BEFORE GROUP

**THINK ABOUT THIS:** Jealousy is so prevalent in the minds and lives of middle schoolers. They're constantly looking to see how they measure up against someone else, and when they feel like they don't, they often default to jealousy. What isn't as obvious to a middle schooler is the way jealousy impacts their lives and relationships. They may not recognize those effects at all, and if they do, they probably don't see the potential they have to damage relationships, their self-image, and more. The goal of this week's conversation is to help open their eyes to the way jealousy (a feeling they all have) can impact them negatively if left unchecked, and to give them an alternative to jealousy in choosing to celebrate themselves and others. This isn't an easy thing for any of us, but it's a great seed to plant for middle schoolers to begin practicing now.

## >> 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:

- Share your favorite “David vs. Goliath” (underdog victory) story from either your own life, somebody you know, or a book/movie/tv show.
- What's one thing a middle schooler might be jealous about? Share a story about a time you felt jealous.
- How does jealousy impact . . .
  - ◇ Your friendships?
  - ◇ The way you see yourself and the things you have?
- Do you think it's possible to feel jealous of and happy for someone at the same time?
- What's one thing you can do to celebrate someone, even if you're feeling jealous? Share a story about a time you celebrated someone, even if you felt jealous.
- How might celebrating other people impact . . .
  - ◇ Your friendships?
  - ◇ The way you see yourself?
  - ◇ The way you see the people you celebrate?

### DO THIS:

- As a group, create a celebration dance or greeting that's unique to your Small Group.
- Play a game of “hot potato” using a toss-able random item (like a shoe, or a pen). Play some music if you have it available. When you stop the music (or just at random times), you (the Small Group Leader) will share one thing you think is great about the person holding the item. Play the game until you have had a chance to celebrate everybody in your group. If you have more time, play again, letting somebody else be the “celebrator.”
- After the game, brainstorm as a group some ways you can celebrate someone who isn't in your Small Group during the upcoming week. Encourage everybody to choose one of the ideas you come up with and commit to doing it!

# STUMMIN

SMALL GROUP  
LEADER GUIDE

HIGH  
SCHOOL  
FOCUS

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## >> BEFORE GROUP

**THINK ABOUT THIS:** In this phase high schoolers cognitively know what gossip is but may not be able to point it out in the moment. Small Group should be the safest place for conversation and connection to happen. As a Small Group Leader, it's our job to model respectful and life-giving conversation. This means protecting the group from gossip and harmful joking, even if it seems like no one is offended. While gossip and joking can be the quickest road to connection, it can erode relationships over time.

## >> 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:

- Who is one person, real or fictional, you are jealous of? Why?
- How have you seen jealousy affect the way people treat others?
- What fuels jealousy? What fuels the ability to celebrate others?
- What are some specific ways you can celebrate the people you go to school with? The people you live with? Tell about a time you celebrated somebody from school or home.
- Share a story about a time that somebody celebrated you or a success you had. How did that make you feel?
- Proverbs 14:30 says "envy rots the bones." In your own words, what do you think that means?
- Share about a time in your life when jealousy/envy "rotted your bones"?
- How would celebrating others change your perspective of them and yourself?
- On a scale of 1-10 how close are you to having a "heart at peace" right now? What are some specific things you can do to move closer to a 10?

### TRY THIS:

This activity will encourage students to celebrate one another as well as focus on the positive things in their lives on a continual basis. On small pieces of paper, have each student write down something they like about every other group member. Sort the papers by student, and put them in envelopes (one for each student). Have your students take home their envelopes, and when they find themselves discouraged, frustrated, or having trouble finding something to celebrate, they can pull out a note to read and be encouraged. Be sure to write your own affirmations for each student!

## >> AFTER GROUP

Contact group members and find out if anybody has an activity (game, theater performance, concert, robotics competition, etc.) coming up that allows spectators. If so, make a plan to attend the activity as a group so you can practice celebrating one another's gifts and successes.