

# STUMMIN

SMALL GROUP  
LEADER GUIDE

MIDDLE  
SCHOOL  
FOCUS

## LIKE ME

NOVEMBER 18, 2020

Week 3 of a 3-week series  
about comparison

## BOTTOM LINE

Dare to believe that  
you are invaluable.  
Beyond compare.

## SCRIPTURE

*Don't copy the behavior and  
customs of this world, but let  
God transform you into a new  
person by changing the way  
you think. Then you will learn  
to know God's will for you,  
which is good and pleasing  
and perfect.*

- Romans 12:2 NLT

## GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand  
and believe that their worth  
is given to them by God,  
and to encourage them  
to treat others as worthy  
because they have the same  
God-given worth.

## >> BEFORE GROUP

**THINK ABOUT THIS:** Thinking about the way God sees them may be a challenge for your middle schoolers. For some, that's because it's never occurred to them that God even thinks about them or sees them at all! For others, it's because they struggle to see beyond how they feel. If they see themselves a certain way, it doesn't matter what anyone else tells them; what they feel becomes fact. And finally, for some it's because they believe they don't deserve to be seen the way God sees them. Keep these things in mind as you encourage students in your conversation this week. Not only do you want them to understand that God does see and think about them, but you want them to know exactly what God thinks so that it can change their thinking about both God and themselves.

## >> 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 is something valuable that you or your family owns? What makes it valuable?
- Name something different that you or your family owns that is valuable in a different way.
- What is something that has personal value to you, but probably wouldn't have value to most other people?
- What's one thing that might make a middle schooler feel like they're not good enough?
- Tell a story about a time you pretended to be something or someone that you're not. Did you get away with it?
- What does God think about us? (Look up these verses if you need help answering this question: beautiful (Eccl. 3:11), victorious (Rom. 8:37), enough (2 Cor. 12:9), very good (Gen. 1:31), strong (Phil. 4:13), wonderful (Ps. 139:14), capable (Mark 10:27), chosen (1 Thess. 1:4), never alone (Matt. 28:20), always loved (Rom. 8:39))
- How does it feel to know that God loves you just the way you are? (Go around the circle and have everybody answer this question using a word nobody before them has already said.)
- What's one step you can take toward changing the way you see yourself so it aligns more closely to how God sees you?
- What's one step you can take toward trying to see somebody in your life more like God sees them?

### DO THIS:

- Have your students use the provided journal page to write down a few negative thoughts they have about themselves along with new, positive thoughts that can replace their old ones. Model how to do this by giving them an example from your own life!

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**THINK ABOUT THIS:** In this phase, high schoolers are constantly battling with their view of themselves and are deeply concerned about how they are viewed by others. In this week's small group, find ways to show students that how they view themselves can be changed by being reminded of how God sees them. Be aware, however, that some students may be more open to this than others.

## >> 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:

- Of all the things you own, which one is worth the most? What criteria did you use to determine the worth of that item?
- Share a story about a time when you felt like you weren't \_\_\_\_\_ enough? (Note to Small Group Leader: Be okay with sitting in this tension. Don't try to fix it or explain it away...yet.)
- In his message, Jeff mentioned many ways that our culture encourages us to measure our worth. Can you remember some of the ways he listed? Can you add any of your own ideas to this list? In which of these ways are you most tempted to measure your worth?
- Share a story about a time you felt like you were worth a million bucks. Then, share a story about a time you felt like you were worth less than a penny.
- When Pastor Jeff said that God thinks you are worthy, what was your first reaction? What makes it difficult to believe? What evidence is there that it is true? (Here are some scripture verses to help you answer this question: Ecclesiastes 3:11, Romans 8:37, 2 Corinthians 12:9, Genesis 1:31, Philippians 4:13, Psalm 139:14, Mark 10:27, 1 Thessalonians 1:4, Matthew 28:20, Romans 8:39)
- If you dared to believe that you are valuable and worthy just as you are, how would you live differently?
- Jeff ended his message with this challenge: "We're called to treat other people like they are of great worth ... simply because God loves them too." As a group, brainstorm some practical ways we can begin to do this.

## >> AFTER GROUP

This week, reach out to your students individually, and let them know at least one valuable thing that they bring to the group, just by being themselves. Encourage them to "pass it forward" by letting their friends/family members know that they are also of great worth.