

STUMMIN

SMALL GROUP
LEADER GUIDE

MIDDLE
SCHOOL
FOCUS

EXPLAINED

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

Week 3 of a 3-week series
about the Bible

BOTTOM LINE

The Bible brings
things to light.

SCRIPTURE

*Your word is a lamp for my
feet, a light on my path.*
- Psalm 119:105 NIV

*I have hidden your word in
my heart that I might not
sin against you.*
- Psalm 119:11 NIV

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to
look to the Bible for wisdom
they can apply to their lives.

>> BEFORE GROUP

THINK ABOUT THIS: As this conversation centers around finding wisdom in the Bible, it's important to help your middle schoolers see the difference between wisdom and answers. This is challenging, as most students in this phase (and maybe even most adults!) often want quick answers. Wisdom is long-term; it can be applied to more than one situation or circumstance in our lives. It directs our path. It's lasting. This week, help point your group to the value of God-given wisdom over quick and easy answers. While they're wired for quick results in this phase, you will be planting seeds that will help them begin to shift their thinking toward wisdom in the long run.

>> 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:

- When you are looking for a quick answer to a question, are you Team YouTube or Team Google?
- What's one word you would use to describe how you feel when you can't find the answer you're looking for? How about when you finally find the answer you're looking for?
- What's one reason someone might look to the Bible rather than Google or YouTube for answers?
- Name a character from a book or movie that you consider to be wise? What wise thing(s) did they say or do?
- Share a story about a time that someone (parent, teacher, coach, brother/sister, friend) shared wisdom with you. How was that wisdom helpful to you?
- How is wisdom different than answers?
- Does knowing that the Bible provides wisdom for your life change the way you feel about the Bible? Why or why not?
- How could memorizing wisdom from the Bible be helpful?
- Name one specific way wisdom found in the Bible might be helpful to you this week. Is there anything coming up on your path that could use a little light?

DO THIS:

Lead your group in prayer using the suggested prayer topics on the activity page.

Then, encourage group members to create a plan for how they'll use the Bible to seek wisdom instead of quick answers.

STUMMIN

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HIGH
SCHOOL
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EXPLAINED

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>> BEFORE GROUP

THINK ABOUT THIS: At this phase, high schoolers are beginning to question ideas they have always been taught and decide for themselves what is helpful and what isn't. If their experience with the Bible has been unhelpful, they may feel suspicious of the idea that it can be a light to their path. One way to diffuse this tension is to acknowledge that the Bible doesn't answer every question we may have specifically. It doesn't mention dating or social media or a number of other parts of teenage life specifically. By acknowledging the tension, we have permission to talk about how the Bible is truly helpful as a lamp to our whole path— even when it doesn't give us turn-by-turn directions.

>> 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 is the craziest thing somebody ever tried to make you believe? How did you determine it wasn't true?
- How do you decide who to go to, or where to go, to get an answer? What makes a source credible or reliable to you?
- What questions are you asking that the Bible doesn't seem to specifically answer for you?
- Tell a story about a time you were literally in the dark and needed a source of light.
- Have you ever looked to scripture for guidance about a situation you were facing? If so, did you find it? What scripture did you find to be helpful?
- Is there an area in your life right now where you are trying to figure out the "next right step"? Tell the group about it.
- What's an area of your life that feels a little dark that could use some light?
- What is something you had to spend a lot of time with before you got good at it or saw the benefit of it? Was it worth the time it took to master it?
- You don't have to navigate the path with a lantern on your own. How can our small group help guide one another? What do you need from this group? What do you have to offer this group?

TRY THIS:

Try memorizing a passage of scripture together. Suggest your favorite passage that has proven helpful for you if you have one. Otherwise, consider something from Philippians 2 or Colossians 3. Say it a few times together in your small group until everyone has it in their memory. This week, text one another in moments where that verse comes to mind or proves to be useful.

>> AFTER GROUP

Take the lead by texting your group when your newly memorized verse comes to mind or proves to be useful throughout your week.