

MOTION | TABLE TOPICS

Small Group Curriculum

Leaders,

We are so excited for what God is going to do through you this semester. Your number one goal during this group is to help every person around you take just one step in their relationship with God. Whether that is beginning a relationship with Jesus, or growing stronger in prayer or relationships, each week you will challenge your peers in their faith and how to apply the Bible to their everyday lives.

You probably already have a group of people that sit together, and these topics are intended to help you simply add discussion about Jesus and the Bible to everyday life! These groups are intended to be led before school, during school (especially lunch and homeroom breaks), or after school. Group discussion should only take about 10-15 minutes, but can last longer if you have more time available. Extra questions that can be used each week might be: tell me something you learned about God this week? What was the message you heard at your church on Sunday about? Do you have a favorite scripture? What is your testimony? Just be open to sharing yourself, encouraging others, pointing people to the Bible, and praying with the group.

Have fun with your group, and don't worry if you don't finish all of the questions each week. Make the focus about students reading the Bible and thinking about their relationship with God. By simply leading this group, you are helping to be an example and lead your peers by being intentional with your time. Don't get discouraged if you don't immediately see people change! Consistency and being available will lead to opportunities to minister to your friends when they need you. If you need help or run into any problems you aren't sure how to handle, simply ask your campus leader or another youth leader at your campus.

We believe in you and know that God has called you to make a difference in your school and around your peers!

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Tips for a Successful Table Topics Small Group:

- Pre-read the scripture and questions to prepare for each week.
- Welcome everyone and use the table topic questions as you begin to get to know each other.
- Each week you will have an easy intro question just for fun. Feel free to add extra questions to this if you feel like your group needs to get to know one another better. Use the first question provided “break the ice.”
- Read the verse provided or have everyone open up their Bible to read it together.
- Use discussion questions to involve other students and get them thinking about the scripture. Don’t be afraid to ask people to respond to get discussion going, or to provide your own opinion to help others open up! You can always start with the question “what do you think this bible verse means?” The answers provided in italics are to help you direct the discussion and feel confident about the questions.
- Keep your peers on the questions as much as possible, but allow for healthy discussion and side questions if it furthers the point of the small group.
- End the group with Prayer Request and Prayer.
- Each week, before starting new material, check in on how their weekly next steps challenge went.
- Start a group text with your small group to keep discussion going throughout the week, to follow up, and to allow students to share prayer requests, etc.

Week 1

“For God so loved the world that **He gave His one and only Son**, and whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
John 3:16 NIV

Discussion Questions

Fun Question: What are some things that you love to do?

1. Who is the verse talking about when it says “God’s one and only son”?
*Jesus who is the savior of the world, He came to save us from our sins by paying the ultimate price. See **2 Corinthians 5:21**.*
2. When this verse talks about the world, who do you think it is talking about? Does it include both good and bad people?
3. Just like Jesus showed love, how can you show love to others this week?

Action Step:

Who is someone this week that you can show the love of Jesus to?

Week 2

“Therefore **do not worry** about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”
Matthew 6:34

(Isaiah 43:18-19)

This passage from Isaiah is also good way of saying what Jesus said but from the Old Testament.

Discussion Questions

Fun Question: What is your favorite part of the week?

1. Why do you think Jesus told us not to worry?
Jesus knew that worrying about tomorrow would ultimately rob us of the promise and assurance of knowing Jesus today. So let tomorrow worry about itself and trust Jesus today.
2. What is something you need trust God for everyday?

Action Step:

Pray this simple yet powerful prayer each day this week, “Jesus I trust you TODAY!”

Week 3

“**You are the light of the world.** A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it **gives light to everyone** in the house.”
Matthew 5:14-15

Discussion Questions

Fun Question: Describe the type of personality you have?

1. What do you think Jesus meant when He said light?
Light is the only antidote to darkness, we are called to light up the dark places of this world. To bring the positive light of Jesus to any situation that we may come upon.
2. What are some areas in your life where you can let your light shine?

Action Step:

Make a positive impact in someone's life this week!

Week 4

“But he said to me, **My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.** Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that **Christ's power may rest on me.**”
2 Corinthians 12:9

Discussion Questions

Fun Question: If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

1. What is grace? Can you run out of grace if you sin?
*The grace of Jesus is a free gift that we do not have to earn but that He grants us freely. He died for us knowing we could never repay Him. Refer to **Romans 5:8***
2. If God can even use our weaknesses, do you think He can be strong in you?
*YOU are the perfect candidate for God to use in a powerful way, in fact He already has things planned for you to do. See **Ephesians 2:10***

Action Step:

When you're feeling weak, pray to God and ask for His strength.

Week 5

“I have told you these things, so that **in me you will have peace.** In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”
John 16:33 NIV

Discussion Questions

Fun Question: If you could vacation anywhere in the world for one week, where would you go?

1. What do you think it means to have peace? What does that look like?
*Peace is a supernatural gift that ONLY God can provide through His spirit. Read **Philippians 4:7***
2. Are there any situations in your life where you need God's peace? (ask if anyone has a situation they felt God's peace even though circumstances were difficult)

Action Step:
When you experience trouble, pray for God's peace!

Week 6

You must love the Lord God with **all your heart**, all your soul, all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.

Matthew 22:37,38

Discussion Questions

1. What does it look like to love God?

You can love God by spending time with Him, through His word or even by simply talking to him.

2. How do you love Him with "all" of yourself? Why do you think this might be difficult for our generation?
We love God with "all" of ourselves by relying and leaning on Him totally and giving our whole lives to Him.

Action Step:
Read Mark 8:34 and discuss with a friend what it means to follow God.

Week 7

So now I am giving you a new commandment: **Love each other**. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

John 13:34,35

Discussion Questions

Fun Question: Who is your best friend? And why? What makes a good friend?

1. How can we express our love for one another?

*By being intentional and showing the love of God through the fruit of His spirit (see **Galatians 5:22-23**).*

2. When we love one another, what does that show to those around us?

By loving those around us it proves to the world that we are His disciples and that His love is inside of us.

Action Step:
Make a new friend this week and show them the love of Christ. What's a simple way to show love to people at school?

Week 8

Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another**, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Ephesians 4:32

Discussion Questions

Fun question: What has been the best part of your day so far?

1. Can you think of a time where you have received forgiveness?
2. Who should we forgive? Is there anything people can do that we should not forgive? (of course we should forgive!)
3. How do we gain forgiveness from God?

Through the sacrifice of Jesus we receive complete forgiveness from God. Read 1 John 1:9

Action Step:

Since God has given us the ultimate forgiveness, pray that He would help you this week bring forgiveness to those who have hurt you.

Week 9

I am the vine, you are the branches. **If you remain in me and I in you**, you will bear much fruit.

John 15:5 MSG

Discussion Questions

Ice Breaker: What is your favorite fruit/vegetable? Your least favorite?

1. What does it mean to “remain” in Him?

2. Why is it important for us to remain “in Him”?

The more we attach and connect our lives to him the more fulfilled we will be. We weren't made to live apart from Him and His presence.

3. What does it mean to “bear much fruit”?

*As Jesus thrives and lives in us, He will be begin to move through us and effect those around us. Refer to **Matthew 9:37** and the importance of us as followers of Christ to bear fruit.*

Action Step:

Invite someone new to your table top small group.

Week 10

Jesus looked to them and said, "with man this is impossible, but not with God, **all things are possible with God.**"

Mark 10:27

Discussion Questions

What would you do if you were President for a day?

1. Do you believe God can do the impossible? Why or why not.

Take this time to open them up to the possibility that God can and will do the impossible!

2. What are some impossible things that you are hoping and praying for God to do the impossible?

Action Step:

Have the student write down prayer requests for the leader to pray over throughout the week.

Week 11

Ask and it will be given. **Seek** and you will find. **Knock** and the door will be opened for you.

Luke 11:9

Discussion Questions

Ice breaker question: Where is the best place to hide at your house?

1. Why should we seek God?

God has made himself available to us, and if we have the faith to approach Him then He is faithful to respond to us.

2. What reasons keep you from talking to God?

*This can be a great opportunity to speak God's truth to the members of your group who may feel far from God or that He is unapproachable. See **Hebrews 4:16***

Action Step:

Approach God like a friend this week, have faith that He will respond to you in great way.

Week 12

Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out from religion? **Come to me.** Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest.

Matthew 11:28 MSG

Discussion Questions

Fun question: Where is your favorite place to take a nap?

1. What is Jesus inviting us to do when we are tired?

Jesus is offering more than just a nap or even good night sleep. He is offering us true rest for our souls regardless of how we come to Him.

2. What does Jesus do for our tired souls?

He refreshes us, we are invited to experience the refreshing life of Jesus.

Action Step:

If at any point this week you are feeling tired or overwhelmed, accept the invitation of Jesus to receive real rest.

Week 13

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and **whoever loses his life** for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

Discussion Questions

Ice breaker: If you could do anything for one day, what would it be?

1. This verse seems to contradict itself. How do we find our lives? What does that mean?

We only find our lives by giving ourselves fully to Christ. A relationship with Jesus is an all or nothing exchange. To experience all that Christ is we have to give all of us (will, control, dreams, desires, etc.)

2. How can we devote our lives daily to Christ?

By daily turning from our own ways and experiencing God through prayer, His word, and worship.

Action Step:

Write on your bathroom mirror Psalm 25:4 as a daily reminder for God to show you His ways.

Extra Fun Questions to use as Ice Breakers:

What do you want to be when you grow up?

If you could travel back in time, what time would you visit?

What is one goal you have?

What are some good ways to overcome feeling sad?

What would you do if the building caught on fire?

If you could have any pet, what would you choose?

What would you do to make the world a better place?

How would you most enjoy spending your birthday?

What is the last dream you remember?

What makes someone a good friend?

What is your favorite subject in school?

What is the hardest work you have ever done?

What is your favorite dessert?

What is your favorite part of the day?

What are some of our family's traditions?

What is the best part of being a part of our school?

If you could be famous for one thing, what would it be and why?

If you could meet any US president, which one would you choose and why?

If you could choose one award to win (real or made-up), what would you pick and why?

If you could ask God one question, what would it be?

What does your dream home look like?

If you could only do one thing for a whole day, what would you pick?

Where is the most beautiful place you have ever been?

What is your favorite thing to do when you're by yourself?

If you had to go out and get a job today, where would you want to work and why?

What is one of your earliest memories?

If you could fix just one problem in the world, what would you pick?

What is your favorite worship song? Why is it important to you?

What country would you love to visit? Why?

What's the best surprise you ever received?

What is your favorite board game and why?

What was the best part of your day? How about the worst?

If you could invent any holiday, what would you call it and how would it be celebrated?

Who is one person you would love to get to know better?