



# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Link / Week 1

## LEADER PREP

### BOTTOM LINE

Prayer links you to God.

### SCRIPTURE

Psalms 145:18 NIV

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to connect with God by being honest in their prayers.

### THINK ABOUT THIS

Remember that for many of your middle schoolers, prayer is a foreign concept. Though they may have heard about it in church or at home, or have participated out of routine or obligation, many of them haven't actually tried to pray or develop a prayer habit on their own. That's why encouraging them to take just one step toward connecting with God in prayer is so important. It's one way they can begin to develop a faith and relationship with God that's their own.

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

*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.*

### JUST FOR FUN

If you could ask God for anything, what would you ask for?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*Those are some pretty good ideas! And one way we ask God for things—both big and small—is by connecting with Him in prayer like we talked about today.*

1. What's the first word that comes to mind when you think of the word "prayer"?
2. What's one thing a middle schooler may pray to God about?
3. What's one reason a middle schooler may NOT go to God in prayer?
4. On a scale of 1-10, how honest are you with God when you pray? Why?
5. What might change about the way you pray if you felt like you were really connected with God?
6. This week, what's one way you can be more honest with God?

### XP (EXPERIENCE)

Pass out a slip of paper to each of your students and ask them to write down something they want to pray for. This could be anything—like something they're grateful for, worried about, sad about, or excited for. When everyone is finished, use a stapler to connect the slips of paper to form a chain. You can leave the chain on display in your Small Group area (if possible) so that you can both add to it with new prayers each week and look back on it as God answers the prayers of your group. End your time together by praying aloud for what each person wrote in the chain.