

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

What To Do When You Don't Know What To Do / Week 5

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

When you don't know what to do, pursue peace instead of payback.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 45:1-7 NIV and Genesis 45:15, NIV

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that payback may feel good in the moment, but pursuing peace is always better long term.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Leaders, there may be times when students' relationships are unhealthy, and in those relationships peace can be achieved without staying in the relationship.

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.

DURING GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some low-key ways that people try to get payback?
2. What are some reasons why we would rather have payback?
3. What are some ways we justify payback?
4. How can payback hurt others? How can payback hurt us?
5. Why can pursuing peace, instead of trying to get payback, be difficult?
6. Describe a time when someone else pursued peace with you instead of payback? What did they do?
7. Read Matthew 5:9, What do you think it means to be a peacemaker?
8. **For upperclassmen:** What's the difference between pursuing peace and forgiving someone? What's the difference between pursuing peace and becoming friends again?
9. What are some steps you can take to pursue peace? Some examples of steps. choosing to not pay back, refusing to gossip, making time to have a difficult conversation, asking for forgiveness, acknowledge the hurt.

TRY THIS

Try sharing a personal story where pursuing payback led to regret or where pursuing peace led to better outcome.