



ONE&ALL youth



DATE

September 10th, 2023

SERIES

Stuck Together Week 1

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE:

Loving your family can make an impact.

SCRIPTURE:

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35 NIV).

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres (1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUPS:

To make students feel welcomed and known, and that we are genuinely glad they're here! This week is ultimately about getting to know each other. If there is time as well for the

THINK ABOUT THIS:

This week has a great lesson but mainly we want to begin to use this time to engage students in a loving way so they can feel comfortable to open up as the weeks progress. This series is talking about families and everyone's family dynamic looks different. Remember that just because a student is at church it doesn't mean that their family is. Be sensitive to the needs of the students as they share. The goal is to partner with the students' parents or adults they live with. One way to do that well is not make them the enemy in your conversations about family and faith.

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. The goal is to getting students verbally engaging, NOT to get through everything in the curriculum.

DURING COMMUNITY GROUP

We hope you are as excited for this as we are!

HIGH/LOWS & OPENING QUESTIONS:

(Have some light and fun opening conversation. The more active they are the more bought in they will be.)

Begin with highs & lows from their week after they introduce each other. Really take this time to listen and ask questions to show you are interested in their lives.

If there is time after highs/lows, here are some more opening questions:

- Who is your hero?
- If you could live anywhere, where would it be?
- What is your biggest fear?
- What is your favorite family vacation?
- What would you change about yourself if you could?
- What is one thing you will never do again?
- Who knows you the best?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE 1): Have your group play this game to show the common experiences that happen in their families. Ask all of your students to hold both hands in front of them or behind their backs and put a finger down if the statements you read aloud are true for them.

Put a finger down if . . .

- Your family has inside jokes.
- You use nicknames in your family.
- You fight with your family.
- You have any siblings.
- You share clothes or shoes with someone in your family.
- You share a room with someone in your family.
- You have someone in your family who decides what shows or movies you watch.
- Your family eats meals together.
- You have a common interest or hobby with someone in your family.
- You have fun with your family.

SCRIPTURE/VIDEO DISCUSSION:

(Some groups may watch the video to begin Group time and then break off into their smaller groups, and that's okay)

- What's your favorite thing about your family?
- What's one thing you would change about your family if you could?
- On a scale of 1-10, how easy is it for you to love your family?
- What's one reason it might be difficult to love your family at times?
- In your own words, how would you explain what it looks like to love your family?
- How does the way we love our family show them something about our faith?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE 2):

Ask your students to personalize 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 by saying their name every time the text talks about **love** in it. Have them read their names in these blanks or pick someone in the group to read their name in:

*___(Name)___ is patient, ___ is kind. ___ does not envy, ___ does not boast, ___ is not proud. ___ does not dishonor others, ___ is not self-seeking, ___ is not easily angered, ___ keeps no record of wrongs. ___ does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ___ always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres (1 **Corinthians 13:4-7 NIV**).*

1. Which of these characteristics of love is the hardest for you to show? Why?
2. This week, which characteristic of love do you want to focus on showing your family?