

SGL GUIDE INTEGRATED

First Place / Week 1

SO HOW DOES THIS WORK?

The SGL Guide Integrated incorporates teaching time with small group time so that the message is broken up and discussed along the way.

TEACHING LIVE

The speaker will identify key moments to pause during the message and direct students to turn to their small groups and discuss. You as the speaker can decide when, where, and how often to pause, or you can watch the teaching video to get some ideas!

TEACHING VIDEO

The communicator on the teaching video will pause at key moments and a cue will appear on the screen. Remember to pause the video and give your group time to discuss. Your church may give you a specific amount of time for each pause or leave it up to you. When the conversation is ready to transition, start up the video again.

For this video, you will pause for small group conversation at the following times:

1. 00:11
2. 02:31
3. 03:34
4. 08:30
5. 09:59
6. 10:28

After the video, be sure to wrap up with more discussion if needed or prayer time.

DON'T FORGET

READ AHEAD

No matter where or how you lead your group, it's important to spend a few minutes preparing. Take time to read the **THINK ABOUT THIS** section which will set you up to meet your students right where they are. And don't forget the **GOAL OF SMALL GROUP** which will point your conversation in the right direction.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Remember, nobody knows your group quite like you. Just because a question appears on a piece of paper or on screen doesn't mean you have to ask it or use the same words. Ultimately, **YOU** are guiding the conversation for your group. So feel free to add, delete, or adapt questions to meet their needs.

LET THEM KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING

Chances are, your few are curious what group will look like if you're changing formats. At the beginning of group time, give them an idea how the format may have changed so they will know what to expect.

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BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Love God, love people, love you.

SCRIPTURE

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments” (Matthew 22:36-40 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To point students toward putting the Greatest Commandment in first place in their faith and to encourage them to be known for loving God, loving others, and loving themselves.

THINK ABOUT THIS

This week’s conversation centers around the idea of being for or against something. Be careful how you define this for your group. So often, Christians are known for what they’re *against*, but we want to help your students shift their focus to understanding that our faith is really more about what we’re *for*. So, avoid getting into controversial topics or debate over what Christians are “supposed” to be for or against. Instead, provide examples that don’t necessarily pertain to church or faith. Why? Because those real-life examples from things like school, media, family, hobbies, and more will not only help make this concept more concrete, it will get their wheels turning about topics that don’t feel as weighty as those related to faith may feel. It makes the conversation more accessible first, allowing them to then personalize it for their faith as they go. Remember, our job isn’t to tell them what to believe here. It’s to remind them of what our faith is really supposed to be about: loving God, loving others, and loving themselves.

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

After the first break, complete this ice breaker:

When it comes to food, what’s your first choice?

After the second break, discuss this question:

1. What do you think it means to be for something?

After the third break, discuss these questions:

2. What’s one example of something a middle schooler might be for?
3. What’s one example of something a middle schooler might be against?

After the fourth break, discuss these questions:

4. Why do you think Jesus chose to focus on what He was for instead of what He was against?
5. What’s one thing Jesus says we should keep in first place?

After the fifth break, discuss this question:

6. Of the things Jesus told us to keep in first place, which one is hardest for you:
 - a. Loving God?
 - b. Loving others?
 - c. Loving yourself?

After the sixth break, complete these activities:

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE) 1

Ask your students to look at the last 10 texts or social media posts they've made and answer the following questions to themselves. (If they don't have a phone, ask them to think about the past conversations they've had with family/friends/classmates/teammates/etc.)

- Where did I see love for God?
- Where did I see love for others?
- Where did I see love for myself?
- Where did I see the opposite?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE) 2

Hand out the provided sheet and ask your students to fill it out during your time together.

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

Think about and write down where you're showing love to God, others, and yourself throughout your week.

**AT
HOME**

**WITH MY
FRIENDS**

**ON MY
TEAM**

**ON SOCIAL
MEDIA**

**IN MY
SMALL
GROUP**