



Into the Unknown / Week 1

SO HOW DOES THIS WORK?

You've probably noticed the whole world has changed in different ways. And, your group time may be changing, too. This adaptation is a tool to help you integrate teaching time with small group time so that the message is broken up and discussed along the way.

USING THE TEACHING VIDEO

The speaker 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 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:

2:29

2:39

2:49

4:52

11:22

13:39

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.

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

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BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

God never changes when you're in the unknown.

SCRIPTURE

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8 NLT).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students recognize how change makes them feel, and to encourage them to focus on God, who never changes.

THINK ABOUT THIS

This week sets up the conversation you'll be having about change over the next four weeks. So, as a leader, it's important to pay attention to your students' words

and body language this week. What words are they using to describe change? Are they fidgeting or getting uncomfortable when they talk about it? What examples are they giving when they're asked to talk about change? Are there some students avoiding eye contact or being uncharacteristically quiet? What things are they saying about God? All of these things can give you valuable insight into how they're processing change right now. It can help you understand how they feel about change, what changes they might be experiencing in their lives, and even how they might see God in light of those things.

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:

ICE BREAKER

Make a list of things you know will never change. Come up with as many as you can as a group!

After the second break, complete this activity:

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE 1)

Write "Love Change," "Change is Fine," and "Hate Change," on separate cards and place them in a line (in that order) on the wall with a little space in-between each. Ask your students to stand or place an object next to the card that represents how they feel about change.

DISCUSS THIS

After the third break, discuss this question:

1. When you hear the word "change," what does it make you think about?

After the fourth break, discuss these questions:

2. What's one example of a change a middle schooler might deal with...
 - a. In their family?
 - b. At school?
 - c. In their friend group?
 - d. In their hobbies or interests?
 - e. At church?
3. Why do you think someone could have a hard time when something changes?

After the fifth break, discuss these questions:

4. How do you think God views change?
5. Does knowing that God never changes make you feel any differently about change? Why or why not?

After the sixth break, complete this activity:

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE 2)

Ask your few to draw an unknown they're facing in their life right now on the provided journal page. As a group, discuss what they drew.

Then, ask your few to write down a prayer on the provided page and silently pray what they wrote. Here, they'll thank God for never changing and ask God to help them through the changes and unknowns in their lives.



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