

SMALL GROUPS QUESTIONS & LEADING SMALL GROUPS



Huron Classis Fall Retreat

SMALL GROUPS QUESTIONS

Session #1 - Psalm 127 - “Two Temples (Psalm 127)”

1. What part of the Sermon was the strongest point for you?
2. What do you think it looks like in the Kingdom of God?
3. What do you think it looks like to build your own Castle?

Session #2 - Matthew 7 and 1 Corinthians 3 - “Product = Foundation”

1. What was it from the sermon that struck you the most?
2. Jesus says in Matthew 7 that the claiming He is Lord is not enough - there has to be a relationship. What does a healthy, living relationship with Jesus look like where “He knows you”?
3. Jesus talks about wise and foolish builders - building a life on the Rock or the Sand. What are some things that a wise builder would do? What are some things a foolish builder would do?
4. Think about the focus of your life right now, if it were to be put to the Burn Test tomorrow - do you think you would be happy with the results of the test?

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5. What do you feel called to do when you get home to be a wise builder?

Session #3 - 1 Peter 2 - "Priestly Obligation"

1. What was your big takeaway from the sermon?
2. What do you think a Living Brick, hard stuck in, bearing a load would look like in your church context? How can you be one?
3. As a Royal Priest what is something you feel compelled to offer the Lord that you aren't currently offering?
4. As a Royal Priest what is something in your life that you enjoy and how can you change how you do it so that it can be worship as unto the Lord?

Session #4 - Nehemiah - "Posture"

1. What was your big Highlight from the sermon?
2. Have you told God He can do anything with your life or do you have dealbreakers? Can God interrupt your life?
3. What is an opportunity you have right where you are in your life that Jesus is calling you to become a kingdom builder? (what's the portion of the wall in front of you?). At home? At church? At school? With friends?
4. Nehemiah's builders were focused on building the wall and prepared for enemy attack by having their tools in one hand and weapons in the other. Are there things in your hands that you need to put down? What is it you need to pick up: 1) a tool, 2) your sword or both?
5. What is your action step when you get home on Sunday?



LEADING SMALL GROUPS

First and foremost, THANK YOU!!! You have answered God's call to mentor youth for this weekend and we know that can be no small task! Please know the Lead Team is here for you! We have also been praying for you to join this weekend and we are continuing to pray over you as the weekend continues. We are so excited for you to engage the youth you brought and lead them closer to Christ! You are a blessing and here on purpose for a purpose!

Small Group Support

We have heard your request for more connection and help between leaders. We again hope this year to host a **leader social!** If our plans change, we'll let you know, but find your way to the **Backyard between 8:30- 9:00 am right before worship.** We hope this will be a time we can help with any questions, frustrations, ideas, creativity etc. LITERALLY ANYTHING! If we can manage, we would love to pop into your small group during the weekend if you think it would be helpful.

About Small Groups

Small groups are split by gender and local church. Small groups meet after each worship session to debrief and dig deeper, learn more and journey together! **You, the leader, are** responsible to decide how this looks for your church this weekend, where to meet and communicate this with other leaders and your youth!

Depending on when the speaker finishes off the small group questions for each of his sessions, we will send them to you before the weekend or give them to you at registration. The small group questions are there as a helper, don't feel the need to use all or any of them, you can do whatever you think is wise and best for your youth.



How To Do Small Groups:

(If you are already an expert at leading and connecting with Youth you can skip this section.)

- You are here to be present. Even if you feel like you aren't connecting or youth aren't engaging well, they will notice that you took time to be here with them and for them. That communicates that they are important! Which is so cool!
- BRING CANDY, COOKIES, CHIPS TO SHARE!
- Sometimes it can be helpful when all youth and you are on the same elevation. You can see everyone, no one gets lost in the corner or in the back row. Sit in a circle on the floor, grass, top bunks in cabins. Think kindergarten style, lol.
- It can be helpful to set a precedent right from the beginning. I often say a bit like "I am so excited to be here with you this weekend, to see God show up and to walk with you. When we are in small groups we are in a safe place. We are here to journey together. God often shows up when we are out of our comfort zone, so I am not afraid to sit in silence, to listen, correct, learn and grow too. When I ask a question, we will go around the circle and everyone will answer. It helps us learn and grow with each other. Let's quickly pray over our time together."
- Try to not read the questions off the guide, they are more here to guide you through the sessions, take notes and support if absolutely needed.
- If this is your first time leading small groups, start with sharing who you are, a bit about you. Then get the youth to do the same. Go around the circle and ask a few direct questions ex. What is your name, grade, what are you looking forward to this weekend, silly would you rather...
- On the first night do not stress too much about the questions. Relationship building is a great first night activity! Pull out some snacks and start out with everyone sharing a high and a low from the day! Validate each answer or ask something deeper. At the end just spend some time in prayer over your small group, pray over them by using all their names. "God, I pray for _____, _____, _____, thank you so much that you brought them to fall retreat. May you show them you are here this weekend, comfort them, engage them as they seek to know you, continue to help them build a relationship with you. In Jesus we pray."



Praying

Prayer is an important part of your small group sessions. Need some ideas on how to pray with your group or what to pray about? We've shared some ideas below!

- Take turns praying and tap a knee when it is the next person's turn. Youth are often starting to explore praying out loud. It can be intimidating, so keep it simple with one thanksgiving and one prayer/ help request. They could pray for the person next to them or for themselves.
- Pray short statements and have the youth repeat you. "Lord, I thank you for the gift of..." "Jesus, I praise you for..." "Lord, I confess I don't always..." "God, I ask you for..."
- Ask openly for prayer requests. If someone shares, gather around and lay hands and pick one youth to open and one to close, hold quiet space for others who maybe want to pray.
- Write down prayer requests and leader pray for the anonymous requests
- Guide students in prayer. Say statements of Thanks, Confession, Praise, Petition, and allow for silent prayer.
- Get into smaller groups of 2-4 and pray for each other
- Try praying standing up, on your knees, head bowed, hands raised

What to Pray About?

- Pray on a theme; God and his power, salvation, mercy, grace etc. Thank God for forgiving their sins. Ask for blessings. Pray about families, schools, or the future.
- Guiding statements
- Select a verse from the bible or a few. Pray Scripture back to God, like thoughts and prayers.