



ONE&ALL youth



DATE

October 1st, 2023

SERIES

Stuck Together Week 4

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE:

Sometimes friends are more like family.

SCRIPTURE:

Jonathan went to find David and encouraged him to stay strong in his faith in God (1 Samuel 23:16 NLT).

And Jonathan made a solemn pact with David, because he loved him as he loved himself (1 Samuel 18:3 NLT).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUPS:

To show students that not all families are the same and that, in many ways, they can connect with or be a part of a family made up of people they choose.

THINK ABOUT THIS:

This week will be key for your students who are in unique family situations. Those who are adopted, living in foster care, being raised by someone other than their parents, spending most of their family time with friends—this conversation will be especially important for them. Not only are you creating space for students to open up about unique family dynamics or situations they may be in, you're also giving them the reassurance that they're not alone in it. And more than that, you're reminding them that sometimes family is about the people we choose and who choose us. That can start in your community group! Each week, you're giving them a place to belong and connect to a family right here at church. So, remind your middle schoolers that no matter what kind of family they're born with, your small group is a place they can find family, too!

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

HIGH/LOWS & OPENING QUESTIONS:

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.

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE): Give your students one minute to find a picture of their favorite best friends from a TV show or a movie. Ask everyone to show the picture to the group and share

why the best friends they chose are such good friends. (Tip: If a student doesn't have a phone or tablet, let them use yours or have students pair off.)

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)

1. What's one way a friend can be more like family?
2. Do you think it's important to have friends who feel like family? Why or why not?
3. Who is one person outside of your family that feels like family to you? Tell us about them!
4. What do you think it means to be part of the family of God?
5. What's one way we can treat each other in this small group like we're all part of the family of God?
6. Who is one person in your life that could be like family to you? Tell us about them!
7. What's one thing you can do this week to show appreciation for someone who feels like family to you?