

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Only The Young / Week 2

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

You get to decide what your years of being young will be about.

SCRIPTURE

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity (1 Timothy 4:12 NIV).

Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge (1 Timothy 6:20NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To point students toward choosing to make the most of their time in high school.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Leaders – this week, as you discuss owning your actions and talking about times you potentially got this wrong, it might be easy for your students to be hesitant about sharing their own experiences. This could be a great opportunity for you to break the ice by sharing a personal story of a time your response to a situation made things worse. Just make sure any stories you share are short, relevant, and age-appropriate.

Create meaningful conversations. Adjust the questions as needed, and don't feel like you need to answer all of them.

DURING GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you had to pick one word that currently describes what your high school years are about, what would it be?
2. If you had to pick one word that describes what you *want* your high school years to be about, what would it be?
3. What are some negative things high school students get caught up in doing by using the excuse, "you're only young once"?
4. Who is someone your age you know who is using their high school years wisely? What stands out to you about the way they live?
5. What's one thing you're responsible for today that you could handle wisely, just like Timothy was instructed to do with what was entrusted to him?
6. We can be tempted to see our faith either as something we can grow in today or something we can work into our lives someday. Do you have a "today" kind of faith or a "someday" kind of faith?
7. Are there any unique opportunities in high school that you can leverage to grow your faith now?
8. Take time to brainstorm some things you want to do as you get older and write them down in your Notes app or on a piece of paper. Then, let's brainstorm together how we can start doing those things now instead of waiting for later. Be sure to write down the idea that sticks out to you the most. (**Leader Note:** *Small Group Leaders, this is a great opportunity to hand out some Now and Later candy for the conversation!*)

TRY THIS

Have students evaluate how they spend their time. Challenge them to choose one block of time they currently "waste" or don't use well and commit to trying something new during that time instead. For example, maybe it's the time spend on the bus ride home. They could choose to listen to a podcast or audiobook on a topic they are interested in working on later, practicing quiet prayer or reflection, or connecting with another person face to face.