

SMALL  GROUP

# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

## How To See God / Week 1

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### BEFORE GROUP

#### BOTTOM LINE

You can see God.

#### SCRIPTURE

*Christ is the visible image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15a NLT).*

*Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."*

*Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:8-9a NIV).*

*"But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you" (John 16:7 NIV).*

*Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit (Galatians 5:25 NIV).*

*But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23a NLT).*

#### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to open their hearts and minds to see God at work in the world around them.

#### THINK ABOUT THIS

As you talk to your middle schoolers about what it means to see God, remember that this can be a challenging concept for them. For starters, they think more concretely in this phase. That means, if they can't actually see God with their eyes, understanding that they can see God in other ways might require some extra context and conversation to get them there. In addition, you're introducing potentially new concepts for some, like the Holy Spirit. For students who have never been to church or are new to faith, this may be more challenging to understand. And even for those who have been coming to church for a while or following Jesus with their lives, this is still an abstract concept for their more concrete minds. As you lead this week, do your best to break down some of these concepts for them. Remind them that this isn't about seeing God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit in the physical sense; it's about seeing the fruit of the Spirit and the goodness of God in their everyday lives.

*This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the content as needed, and don't feel like you need to complete everything listed.*

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### DURING GROUP

#### JUST FOR FUN

Rank these superpowers from best to worst: invisibility, time travel, mind reading, and flying.

#### DISCUSS THIS

1. In your own words, how would you explain to someone what it means to “see God”?
2. What questions do you think a middle schooler might have about seeing God?
3. What do you think it means to connect with God?
4. What might stand in the way of a middle schooler being able to connect with God?
5. What are some things you know to be true about Jesus? Let’s make a list!

### DO THIS (EXPERIENCE 1)

Together, make a list of everything you know to be true about Jesus. Have fun with it! Whether it’s on a whiteboard in your small group space, sticky notes you place on the wall, a big posterboard, or a shared note, collaborate on everything your group can brainstorm or look up about Jesus. Encourage your group to draw pictures or find images that help depict these things, too!

6. If we see God in Jesus, what does that list tell you about who God is?
  7. What do you think it means to be “in step with the Spirit,” like Paul said?
  8. How can looking for the fruit of the Spirit help you see God?
  9. This week, what’s one place you can look for the fruit of the Spirit in your everyday life?
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