



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

What I Really Want / Week 2

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

We're free to make God's approval our first priority.

SCRIPTURE

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ (Galatians 1:6-7 NIV).

Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant (Galatians 1:10 NLT).

Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else. For we are each responsible for our own conduct (Galatians 6:4-5 NLT).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To point students toward living in freedom from the approval of others.

THINK ABOUT THIS

At this phase, having a sense of belonging is extremely important to students. In a world of social media where they are constantly getting feedback, that feeling of belonging may feel jeopardized and out of their control. Be careful not to minimize or be sarcastic about your students' need for approval in high school. Instead, steer them toward the understanding that they've already found acceptance in God.

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. What's one area in your life where you feel like you have to work hard to fit in?
2. What does living for the approval of others feel like to you? How is that different than what you think freedom should feel like? (**Leader Note:** *The Feelings Wheel could be helpful to get the conversation going here!*)
3. Why do you think the approval of others matters so much to us?
4. On a scale of 1 to 10, how much do you think the following contribute to our desire to seek approval from others?
 - a. Your friends.
 - b. Social media/technology.
 - c. Your parents.
 - d. Your goals.
 - e. Church/small group.
5. What does being free from living for the approval of others mean to you?
6. Think about that one person—or that one group—whose approval you can't seem to live without (just don't name names!). What's one thing you can do this week to free yourself from needing that approval?
7. What would it look like if you started to live like God's approval mattered most?

TRY THIS

Leaders—send a group text later this week reminding your students that they don't need others' approval because the God who made them already accepts them. And when they keep that in mind, they'll feel a lot freer!
