



Small Group Discussion

The Week of: Sept. 16, 2026

What's your life like:

Spend some time getting to know each other.

1. Introduce yourself: name, school, favorite flavor of ice cream
2. What is something you're hoping goes well this school year?

What are we talking about this week:

This week we are kicking off a new series called "In It to Win It." We talked about how middle school is an important part of the race of life, and if we want to play to win in our faith, we need to focus on two things: loving God and loving others.

This week is a decision message! Check in to see if any of your students chose to put their faith in Jesus and CELEBRATE, ENCOURAGE and PRAY for them! If they don't have a phone or didn't submit a form electrically, please get their name to your Pastor of Student Ministries. This allows us to follow up with that student.

Set the Tone. Before kicking things off, set some expectations for how your group will operate. For example: When someone is talking, we are listening. Phones go face down in the middle of the circle. We pray at the beginning and end of every group. Create a "no gossip" rule. Etc.

Bible Verses: Matthew 22:36-39, Romans 5:8

Discussion Questions

1. Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. What do you think that looks like for a middle school student?
2. Mark said, "Love is more than a feeling. Love takes action." What are some ways you can actually show God that you love him?
3. Jesus also tells us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Who do you think your "neighbors" are?
4. Why do you think loving other people is also a way of showing love to God?
5. Romans 5:8 says that God demonstrated His love for us by sending Jesus. What did God do to show His love for you?
6. Is there anything about putting your faith in Jesus, following Him, or what He did on the cross that you have questions about?

Now what:

- This week, don't just feel like you love God and others, do something that shows it.
- Who is one person you will see this week that you can purposefully show the love of Jesus to? What is one specific thing you can do for them?