



# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

## Into the Wild / Week 1

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

## LEADER PREP

### BOTTOM LINE

You don't know the significance of your steps.

### SCRIPTURE

*The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him . . . " (Genesis 12:1-4a NIV).*

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that big faith starts with small steps; and to encourage them to take one small step in their faith.

### THINK ABOUT THIS

Leaders—remember that the "unknown" will look different for every student. Be sure to also encourage the small steps into the wild that your students may be taking.

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

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

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where's the wildest place you've ever been in nature?
2. What are some similarities between going into the wild and following God?
3. Why is it difficult to take any kind of step when we don't know what the outcome will be?
4. In what ways do you think going into the wild unknown grows our faith?
5. Is it difficult to believe that God wants to do great things in, through, and around you? Why or why not?
6. What's one step of faith you think you need to take right now? What would it take for you to actually take that step?

### TRY THIS

Leaders—after this week's discussion, ask your students to identify a time in their own lives when God called them to go into the wild. If they're comfortable, ask your students to share their stories with one another, each one talking about a specific time that God led them through a situation where they weren't sure how things would turn out.



# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

## Into the Wild / Week 2

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

## LEADER PREP

### BOTTOM LINE

Don't give up because you've messed up.

### SCRIPTURE

*"Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said. So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. He slept with Hagar, and she conceived" (Genesis 16:1-4a NIV).*

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV).*

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that despite the fact that they're broken people, God can still use them in a big way.

### THINK ABOUT THIS

Leaders—as you lead this discussion, if it isn't landing with your group, consider speaking up first. Share about a time when you messed up. Just be sure to keep your example age-appropriate and something that sparks healthy conversation (not something that becomes the focus of conversation).

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

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

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a time when you felt like you weren't cut out for something.
2. Why do we sometimes feel like we don't have what it takes to be a "good Christian"?
3. Why does it matter that God still used Abraham, despite Abraham's huge mistakes?
4. Think of a time when you thought you messed up so badly that you assumed God had given up on you. Without sharing what you did, talk about how you felt and what you did to move forward.
5. How would your life look different if you believed that God never gives up on you, even when you mess up?
6. Why do you think it's easier to encourage *someone else* when they mess up than it is yourself?
7. How could we, as a small group, encourage one another not to give up when we mess up?

### TRY THIS

Leaders—encourage your students to create an "in case of an emergency" list of things to do and remember when they mess up. For instance, activities to do, names of friends to call, and Scripture to remember. If they are feeling that way now, encourage them to reach out to you and talk sometime this coming week.



# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Into the Wild / Week 3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

## LEADER PREP

### BOTTOM LINE

Let God shape the way you see Him.

### SCRIPTURE

*Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you" (Genesis 22:1-2 NIV).*

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that God loves them and can be trusted, no matter their current circumstances.

### THINK ABOUT THIS

Leaders—at this stage, students tend to create catastrophes out of their circumstances. Don't diminish what they're going through or dismiss circumstances as "no big deal." Instead, do your best to empathize with your students where they are.

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

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

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are you a person who loves to swim with stingrays and thinks it would be cool to see a bear on a hike? Or would you rather stay by your neighborhood pool?
2. Why is it difficult for us to know and trust what God is like?
3. In what ways do our circumstances affect the way we see God?
4. If you were honest, how would you describe your view of God right now?
5. What would it look like for you to let God shape the way you see Him?
6. If you trusted God no matter what, how would that change the way you approach God and your circumstances?

### TRY THIS

Leaders—this message might be harder for students going through difficult circumstances right now. This week, text any students you know are in those types of situations and make sure they know you're available to talk if they need to.