



# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

More Than Friends / Week 1

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

## LEADER PREP

### BOTTOM LINE

Dating is great, but thinking is better.

### SCRIPTURE

*Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah. The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, "See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him. Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels of silver" (Judges 16:4-5 NIV).*

*"How can you say, 'I love you,' when you won't confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven't told me the secret of your great strength." With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was sick to death of it (Judges 16:15-16 NIV).*

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students begin to think clearly and long-term when it comes to their current or future dating relationships.

### THINK ABOUT THIS

Leaders—some of your students may have been dating for years, while others may have never been on a date. Be careful not to leave out non-dating students by using inclusive phrases like, "whether or not you're dating someone right now," as you lead this discussion.

## 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. Do people at your school use the term *dating*? If so, what does that mean? If no, what terms do they use?
2. Whether you're dating someone or not, what percentage of time do you spend thinking about it?
3. *Why* do you think the average high schooler wants to date?
4. Whether you're dating someone or not, how does being obsessed with someone lead you to use poor judgment?
5. Do you think it's possible for someone to be a good person, but not a good person for you to date? Why or why not?
6. God made you and has something great in mind for you. How could a dating relationship help or hinder the non-dating parts of your life today and in your future?

### TRY THIS

Leaders—encourage your students to think of one piece of dating advice they'd give to someone three years younger than them.



# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

More Than Friends / Week 2

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

## LEADER PREP

### BOTTOM LINE

Your perspective is your pick.

### SCRIPTURE

*A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones (Proverbs 17:22 NIV).*

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! (Philippians 4:4 NIV).*

*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things (Philippians 4:8 NIV).*

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that while they can't always pick their circumstances when it comes to dating, they can always pick their perspective.

### THINK ABOUT THIS

Leaders—be sensitive to the fact that some of your students aren't dating right now and might feel a little embarrassed about that. Be careful not to accidentally single-out a student for not being in a dating relationship right now.

## 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. Why do you think dating is such a big deal in high school?
2. When things aren't going well, how does it feel when people tell you to change your perspective (i.e. "Cheer up, man!" "You just need to change your attitude.")?
3. How can dating affect the way people see the rest of their lives?
4. Why do most people believe that they don't have control over their emotions?
5. What are some things you can miss out on if you let your dating life—good or bad—dominate your thoughts?
6. What's one thing you can do to keep dating frustrations from dominating your thoughts?

### TRY THIS

Leaders—remind your students that what they think about matters by texting them this verse: *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things (Philippians 4:8 NIV).*



# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

More Than Friends / Week 3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

## LEADER PREP

### BOTTOM LINE

Getting healthy requires extreme measures.

### SCRIPTURE

*"If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away" (Matthew 5:29a NIV).*

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that when it comes to breaking free from things that enslave them, they can't keep just making a commitment or promise to themselves and expect a different result.

### THINK ABOUT THIS

Leaders—the way you approach the subject of pornography will set the tone for how open your students will be. Be intentional about approaching this week's conversation with grace and an understanding tone. This conversation might be difficult to navigate, but you can do it!

## 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. Why does it feel so strange to talk about porn in church?
2. How can porn negatively affect your ability to have great relationships?
3. Why do you think our culture *doesn't* acknowledge the negative impact porn has in our lives?
4. Why does getting healthy in *any* area require extreme measures?
5. Why is it important to tell someone if we want to get free in areas that imprison us?
6. Whether or not you struggle with porn, what are the benefits of restricting access to it? Why is that inconvenient?
7. What are some things we can do as a group to stay healthy in this area? (*Leaders—deciding as a group to give you their app store passwords or install a filter on their phones is a great first step.*)

### TRY THIS

Leaders—let your students know that if they want to talk with you one-on-one about struggling with porn, you'd love to talk with them. Assure them that you'll be there to help and support them, not condemn them. Let them know some ways they can follow up with you and have a conversation (Note: For some of them, it may be less intimidating at first for them to text you. Once they tell you what's going on over text, you can follow up with them in a way that works for your schedule.)