

SMALL  GROUP

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

What Was I Made For? / Week 3

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

I am made for more than what I (can) do.

SCRIPTURE

...For through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him (Colossians 1:16 NLT).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To show students the ways they may be finding their sense of worth and value in what they're good at and to encourage them to know and believe that what God thinks about them is a better place to anchor their identity.

THINK ABOUT THIS

It's easy for any of us to find our sense of self in the gifts and talents we have. Why? Because they're obvious to others. The more points we score, the better we are in school, the more popular we are, the more gifted we are in any skill, the more others around us take notice and connect our worth to those things, whether students realize it or not. While being good at or gifted in any area of life isn't a negative thing, it's important to help students untangle that talent from who they are as people and the value they have as individuals. Gifts, talents, skills, and the like are all subject to change. They'll come and go, and, if they're the foundation of who we are, we'll be shaken completely when they go. Remind students of this truth as you encourage them to find value in who God made them to be, not what God made them to do. And of course, be mindful of students who may have disabilities or limitations that keep them from being able to do the same things other students can do more easily. How they're made is just as valuable as anyone else, so be sure to use language that is inclusive to all abilities and skills.

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

DURING GROUP

JUST FOR FUN

Play a couple rounds of "Two Truths and a Lie!" Give a few students a chance to share three facts about themselves: two that are true and one that's a lie. Then, take turns guessing which one is the lie to see how well your students do.

DISCUSS THIS

1. What's one thing you're good at? Tell us about it!
2. How did you get good at that? In other words, what did you do to level up and keep getting better?
3. Why do you think people often connect their sense of worth and value to what they're good at?
4. What's the danger of finding our worth and value in that alone?
5. What do you think God thinks about you?

6. What might change about the way you see yourself if you let what God thinks about you be where you find your value?
7. This week, what's one step you can take to learn and remember what God says is true about you?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE 1)

Give each student a "Hello My Name Is" name tag and have them write their name on it. Ask them to write two things they're known for. (One can be character-driven and the other could be something funny.) Then have your students write down two things they *want* to be known for. (Again, one can be character-driven and the other funny.) For example, a tag could say, "Hello My Name Is: Shanna. I'm known for having a ridiculous number of nicknames and for making people laugh. I want to be known for being kind and for giving other people nicknames."

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE 2)

Ask your students to think about how they might believe the lie that their value can be found in their talents, skills, or things they can do. On a blank notecard, have them write, "I am made for more than what I can do." On the back of the card, ask your students to write a phrase opposite of the lie they identified and put the card in a place where they'll see it often.
