

WEEK 2: WHO IS GOD?

Objective: Create a warm and inviting atmosphere, encourage vulnerable and honest sharing, listen to the heart of your group members, schedule upcoming experiences.

PRAYER POINTS

- People will be excited to come back, connect, and want to share openly and authentically as you share from your own life.
- God will give you wisdom and insights as needed for each person in your group.
- God will give you an open and non-judgmental heart to love and understand each person.
- God will help you root out false or incomplete images of Him.

LEADER PREPARATION AND GROUP TIME

- Remember you are key to the group's success. Take time to prepare your heart before you arrive.
- Review the homework for the week, as well as your journaling notes before you arrive.
- Be intentional in welcoming everyone. Use name tags again this session.
- Ensure you have enough chairs for everyone.
- Pay attention to what is said — as well as what is not said — as your group shares so you can ask good questions. Lead with the end in mind!
- Be sure to bring your Bible and encourage your group to bring their Bibles to guide their discussions around what God's Word says, rather than what they think it says.

GROUP TIME

10 minutes - Welcome

- Greet each person by name.
- Welcome them back and let them know you are glad they are there.

20 minutes - Ice Breaker

Create a safe way to help people get to know each other (one minute per person)

- Play Peaks and Pits. Have everyone share the best and worst part of his or her day.
- Play the Penny Game. Bring 20 pennies dated in the last 25 years and have everyone pick one and share something that happened in their life in that year.
- Play “Two Truths and a Lie.” Each person makes three statements about him or herself and one isn’t true. The group guesses which one is false.

See appendix for additional icebreaker questions.

20 minutes - Introduction Question

- Have two or three people share their two-minute story.
- What was a lie you told as a kid? What happened?
- What lie do you or did you believe about God?

40 minutes - Discussion

- As you transition into discussion, observe, listen, and ask questions.
- Watch for “over talkers,” create space for honesty, and redirect questions to encourage more conversation: “Has anyone else experienced anything like that?”
- You can ask a question about the homework: “Which day did you like the best? Which day challenged you the most?”
- You can pick one or two questions they answered in homework and use it as basis for discussion.

Leader notes: Not everyone will get a chance to answer every question. Direct the discussion to include those who have not shared and to keep others from over talking.

Take notes when each person shares part of their story, writing down things they question or may not believe, and breakthroughs in their spiritual journey. You will use all of these notes when you pray for them to break free of strongholds and during the celebration.

20 minutes - Prayer Requests

- Prayer requests can be presented as a group or you can break into prayer partners.
- Remind everyone the importance of confidentiality (ensure each person has signed and returned the Rooted Covenant).

10 minutes - Closing

- Set a time for the prayer and serve experiences and remind everyone of the dates.
- If you have decided as a group to set up a social network to keep in touch, follow up on the status of that. Designate someone to do this for the group.
- Ask for a volunteer to be responsible for set up and clean up of the table each week.

WORKBOOK REVIEW

Who is God?

The focus this week is on God, His creation and what happened to it, and His plan for redemption.

Day 1 The Mysterious God

- What have been your false or incomplete images of God?
- What new thoughts do you have about God?

Day 2 The World God Made

- What do you learn about God from the creation story?
- What questions does this account raise for you?
- How does creation declare the glory of God to you?

Day 3 The Crown of God's Work

- How do you see God's love and care for you?
- How does it make you feel to know God has given us the job to care for the earth?
- How do you respond to the idea that God wants a relationship with you?
- How have you seen this played out?

Day 4 What Went Wrong

- Where do you see the consequences of human rebellion in our world? In your own life?
- What kind of death have you experienced because of your sin?

Day 5 The Best News Ever

- Is the way of salvation, as is explained in this chapter, what you had previously thought? (If not, how is it different?)
- Have you accepted Jesus as your Savior and Lord? (If yes, how has that changed you? If you haven't, what is keeping you from doing it now?)