

You Belong Here: Season 2
Wk 1/4: You Belong Here
August 22 & 23, 2020



LEADER PREP

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that what the rest of the world says about them does not matter in comparison to what God says about them.

SCRIPTURE

[Zephaniah 3:17](#) &
[Jeremiah 31:3](#)

THINK ABOUT THIS

Middle school is a phase in life where we begin to integrate reason and emotion, begin to self-reflect and evaluate, and rapidly increase our self-awareness. These are ingredients for the emotional powder keg of what psychologists call adolescent egocentrism. Adolescent egocentrism is teens' and older tweens' belief that others are highly attentive to their behavior and appearance. **Adolescent egocentrism is normal cognitive development in this phase** and leads middle school students to believe that all eyes are on them all the time. **Their peers have the LOUDEST voice in their opinion of themselves. Today, we want to encourage students that God's voice is the most important when it comes to answering who they are and how much they matter.**

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

MAIN POINT

God loves _ (enter your name here)_ where **YOU** are.

GET THEM TALKING

What is one positive thing a parent, teacher, or coach has said about you? (ENCOURAGE EVERY STUDENT TO ANSWER)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. On a scale from 1-10, how often do you worry about what other people say about you: 1 being "NEVER" and 10 being "100 times a day."
2. What are different groups of people whose opinions of us can matter to us? **WRITE EACH DOWN ON A POST-IT. Lead students to at least include the below groups:**
 - a. Friends
 - b. Parents
 - c. God
3. **Let's arrange the POST-ITs in order of whose opinion you all think is most important together:**
4. Which post-it should be the MOST important opinion to us? Why?
5. Who is next, why? Etc.

READ [Zephaniah 3:17](#) and [Jeremiah 31:3](#).

Then answer the following questions:

6. How is God's love for us described?
7. Based on these verses and any other ones you know, what is God's opinion of us?
8. Why should God's opinion of us be the most important to us?
9. Why is it so easy to let other's opinion matter more to us sometimes?
10. When we are hurt or worried about what others have or may say about us, how can we remind ourselves of what God has said about us?

NEXT STEP

Take home the list of YOU MATTER TO GOD Bible Verses. Put it somewhere you will see it often & remind yourself what God says about you! For an extra challenge, pick a verse and memorize it.

PRAYER GUIDE

Ask students for their prayer requests and Close your time together in prayer.

SCRIPTURE

MS students are concrete thinkers, so opening your Bible to read the Scripture with them is a preferred visual cue.

ZEPHANIAH 3:17 (NLT)

“For the LORD your God is living among you.

He is a mighty savior.

He will take delight in you with gladness.

With his love, he will calm all your fears.

He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.”

JEREMIAH 31:3 (NLT)

Long ago the LORD said to Israel:

“I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love.

With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself.”