

BOTTOM LINE:

God's new community is welcome to everyone.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Bibles
- Student Notebooks

optional icebreaker: family.

INSTRUCTIONS: The goal is to be the head of the family without your secret name being guessed! Give every student a small piece of paper and have them choose a famous person (character, celebrity, athlete, etc.) to write on the paper. They want to keep their person secret. Collect each student's paper. Tell the students you will read the names off the paper out loud. Choose one student to start and instruct them to guess the person/character of another person in the group. If they guess correctly, they become a family and are now on the same team together. They guess another student. If they guess incorrectly, the student who was asked then gets a chance to guess. The last student whose person / character has not been guessed wins.

hear from God through His Word.

DO THIS: Read a few different passages from the book of Luke with your group and then have a discussion about them using the questions below.

- Split your students into three groups and assign each group one of the following passages: **Luke 4:38-44, Luke 5:12-16, and Luke 5:17-26**. Tell each group to spend some time reading the passage together. Then, bring everyone back together and have one student from each group summarize their passage for the whole group.
- **ASK:** *What do these passages all have in common? What does it have to say about the character of Jesus?*
- **ASK:** *Why do you think Jesus was especially concerned with those who were normally excluded?*
- **ASK:** *Why would it have been surprising for Jesus to include these people?*

watch the "A Different Way" week 3 video.

- **ASK:** *What stood out to you in the video? Why?*
- **ASK:** *Did the video help you understand what we read in Luke? How?*

talk with others about our faith.

DO THIS: Lead your students in a conversation about the community using the questions below.

say this:

Who you are doesn't determine if you are welcomed into God's Kingdom. Jesus made it clear that anyone who sees their need for Him has a place in His Kingdom, no matter what.

- **ASK:** *Have you ever felt included? Have you ever felt excluded? How did each of those experiences make you feel?*
- **ASK:** *Do you think your community should be made up of only people who are similar to you? Why or why not?*
- **ASK:** *Is there anyone that you think is excluded from the Kingdom of God? Why or why not?*
- **ASK:** *Would anyone say that they don't feel very included in our Life Group community? (**Leader Note:** This is a vulnerable question, so be ready to respond with sympathy and reassurance if any students open up.)*

live in a way that honors God.

DO THIS: Encourage your students to think about how they are including people in the community of your Life Group using their **Student Notebooks** and the instructions below.

- Tell your students to open up their **Student Notebooks** and write the name of someone in your Life Group who they want to do a better job of including. Encourage them to make an effort to be more inclusive towards that person moving forward.

pray by talking to God.

DO THIS: Lead your students in a time of prayer using the prompt below.

- *Spend a minute praying for the person you just wrote down in your notebook. Ask God to help that person feel more included in the community of our Life Group and to give you opportunities to go out of your way to make them feel valued and loved.*
- **Leader Note:** Send your students the link to the 6-day "A Different Way" Devotional on the YouVersion Bible App. Tell them that this devotional is a follow up to this series and is a great way for them to spend time with Jesus throughout the week. Scan the QR code to get the link!



memory verse

"¹⁸The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,

¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Luke 4: 18-19