



# Loop



## SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Week 3: *Don't Sugarcoat It: Hard Times*  
Maturity

### The Point

Life is hard, but God is still good.

### The Verse

#### James 1:2-4 NLT

*Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.*

### Order of Experience

Countdown/Hang Out  
Icebreaker in Small Groups  
Emcee Welcome  
Worship  
Emcee Transition to Message  
Message/Salvation  
Offering  
Announcements  
Activity/Small Group  
Small Group Discussion  
Check Out

## Small Group Discussion

### YouVersion Bible Plan

Make sure students check out the Bible Plan associated with this week:

#### *How to Grow Up*

### Icebreaker Question

What is a good food that would be disgusting if you had to cover it with sugar and then eat it?

### Choose questions for your small group.

1. What's one thing that stuck out to you from the message today?
2. What does it mean when people sugarcoat things? Why should we avoid sugarcoating hard topics?
3. Talk about a time when you had to go through something really painful or sad. What happened, and how did you get through it?
4. Read today's point. When life is really hard, how can we still have hope and trust that God is good? (*God's character doesn't change even when our life does, so God is always good even when life is not. We can trust that He will work through the hard things in our lives, and we can always have hope because we know we'll have full healing in Heaven.*)
5. Read **James 1:2-4 NLT** (*printed on the front of this guide*). How can these verses change the way we see hard things?
6. When you go through something hard, how will you respond?
7. Take prayer requests, and pray for your students.

### Leader Notes/Announcements

\*Promote **Swerve** to your 6<sup>th</sup> grade students.

\*Invite your 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to **Switch** on Wednesday nights.

\*Encourage students to read the YouVersion Bible Plan: **How to Grow Up**. It's with the Switch Bible Plans.