



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

JESUS
WEEK 4 SUFFERING

Small Group Welcome

1. **Introduce** yourself, and **welcome** new kids by name.
2. Kids **share** what happened during the past week.
3. **Check up** on past week's prayer requests and events.
4. **Discuss** the question: **If you broke your arm and had a cast, who would you ask to sign it?**

Small Group Activity

You'll Need

Per Kid	Nothing
Per Group	1 Challenges activity supplement

After Activity

Kids Keep	Nothing
You Keep	Activity supplement (<i>throw away/recycle</i>)

To Do

Say: Wow. I've got some *tough* challenges for you—let's do them and test which helps us get through them better: discouraging words or encouraging words!

1. **Assign** kids a challenge from the activity supplement.
2. Kids **do challenge** for about a minute while you **say** encouraging words from the activity supplement.
3. When time's up, **ask** kids:
 - How hard was that challenge on a scale of 1-10?
 - How did the encouraging words make you feel about the challenge?
4. **Kids do the same** challenge for another minute while you **say** discouraging words from the activity supplement.
5. When time's up, **ask** kids:
 - How hard was that challenge on a scale of 1-10?
 - How did the discouraging words make you feel about the challenge?
6. **As time allows, try new challenges**, but only use encouraging words like Jesus says from here on out!

Small Group Discussion

Say the point and Bible verse together.

Jesus is there to help you through. He's been through some hard times, too.

Hebrews 12:2 NIRV ... *He paid no attention to the shame of the cross. He suffered there because of the joy he was looking forward to. ...*

1. **In this verse, who suffered on the cross?** *Jesus*

Choose a few review questions.

1. **What do you think "suffering" means?** *Ideas: feeling pain in your body or experiencing painful feelings*
2. **When we're suffering and going through a tough time, what do you think Jesus wants to say to us?** *Answers will vary.*
3. **What are some thoughts you might think in your head when you're suffering?** *Answers will vary.*
4. **What do you think is the most helpful thing for someone who is suffering?** *Ideas: encouraging words, listening to them, helping them, praying, etc.*
5. **Name a few people you think can encourage you when you're suffering.** *Answers will vary.*

Choose an action step question.

1. **When you're suffering, what encourages you?** *Answers will vary.*
2. **What can you do to encourage someone else who is suffering?** *Answers will vary.*

Pray together.

1. **Ask** kids to share things they'd like to pray about.
2. **Write down** their prayer requests.
3. **Pray** together over the prayer requests.

Not sure what to pray? Pray this: God, thank You for listening to us and encouraging us when we suffer. In Jesus' name, amen.

Check Out

Stay in small groups until kids are checked out.

1. Encourage **kids to talk** about what's on their mind, and **do challenges** again.
2. When a kid from your small group leaves, **say** a positive and specific compliment to their family.
3. **Ask** parents to **take a pic** of the parent convo card at the door to help **continue the conversation** at home.

Please save questions on back for Small Group Discussion.



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