

MEET  
THE  
GROUP**THE POINT**

God invites us into a relationship as child and friend.

**BIGGER PICTURE**

We can't miss the foundation for healthy friendships: our relationship with God. Proverbs 1:7 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and discipline." A healthy relationship with God means recognizing the authority and wisdom that God alone possesses. God is Father. And Proverbs tells us that a father protects (30:5), a father provides (10:3), a father leads (3:5-8), a father offers love and attentive care (8:17), a father disciplines and offers instruction and boundaries (3:11-12). Later in Scripture, we see that a father will sacrifice for the sake of the family (1 Corinthians 1:24-30; Colossians 2:2-3; Matthew 12:42). Seeing God as Father can transform how we understand His character. We also see that Jesus is the ultimate friend (John 15:13). Engaging in our relationship with God as child and friend can provide a foundation that can change every area of our lives.

**Verses:**

Proverbs 30:5; 20:3; 3:5-8; 8:17; 3:11-12; 1 Corinthians 1:24-30; Colossians 2:2-3; and Matthew 12:42.

**LEADER WIN**

It is easy to think about God as distant and detached from life. Seeing God as Father and friend provides an opportunity to close the gap. A win this week is students shifting their perspectives about God. Be open with your students about how seeing God as Father/friend has transformed your relationship with God and others in your life.

**LEADER TIPS**

**Accountability.** Groups are where you grow! But growth does not happen without accountability. We want our groups' places where students feel safe being honest about struggles and failures. We also want our groups to be places where students are challenged to pursue Jesus more and more. If students talk about an area they want to grow, take note and follow up with them. Encourage them to keep one another accountable to where God is stretching them.

**Getting Started...**

1. If you have anyone new: Have everyone introduce themselves by sharing their name, where they go to school, and one interesting fact about them.
2. Remind everyone the purpose of group time and the expectations you have for how it will run.
3. **Ask this question:** Do you have a nickname? What is it and why?

**The Big Question: *What does friendship with God look like?***

1. How would you describe your relationship with God? How do you think God sees you and your relationship with Him?
2. Read Proverbs 1:7; 30:5; 20:3; 3:5-8; 8:17; 3:11-12; 1 Corinthians 1:24-30; Colossians 2:2-3; and Matthew 12:42. . What sticks out to you about this passage? Why? How do these passages relate to one another?
3. How does Proverbs description of what a father does encourage you as you think about God as Father?
4. What about Proverbs description of a father makes you uncomfortable or challenges you as you think about God as Father?
5. What security do you have with God as Father? If God is Father and you do not have to prove yourself to others, how does that free you to be a friend to others?
6. Read John 15:13. What sticks out to you about this passage? Why?
7. How does God seeing you as a child and friend change the way you see yourself?

**NEXT STEPS**

- What is one way you need to see God's as Father in your life? Trusting Him for provision? Trusting Him for protection? Trusting Him to lead? Commit to praying to him daily asking Him to show Himself as Father.
- Consider memorizing Proverbs 1:7 together as a group.

