

WEEK 1

SMALL GROUP GUIDE



THIS SERIES

If you tried to define “friendship” based only on what you see on Instagram, you might think #friendship was all about group hugs, selfies with your bestie, or tagging each other in your favorite memes. But real friendship isn’t so picture perfect. In this 4-week series, you’ll challenge students to build the kind of friendships that go beyond the surface – the kinds of friendships you’ll need when times get tough. You’ll look at three key friendships as Scripture, as well as the friendship God offers us through Jesus, as you help teenagers see that Godly friendships can **shape us, heal us, and purify us** – especially during difficult times.

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

In the fire, true friendships can be forged.

THE BIBLE

I Samuel 18:1-11, 19:1-7, 20:1-42
Proverbs 18:24

- **What’s an example of a “fire” you or your friends might experience this year?**
- **How can “fires” make our friendships stronger?**
- **Why do “fires” sometimes destroy a friendship?**
- **What do you think the difference is between a fire that makes a friendship stronger and a fire that destroys a friendship?**
- **What’s so impressive about what Jonathan did for David in today’s story?**
- **Of all the stories that could have been told in the pages of Scripture, why do you think this one has been recorded? Why is it important to God?**
- **Name one person you know will stand with you during tough times.**
- **Tell us about a time a friend helped you through a difficult experience.**
- **Do you have any friends going through a tough time who you can stand with? Who?**
- **Read Proverbs 18:24. What’s one step you can take this week to avoid unreliable friendships and build truer friendships?**