

Students Group Guide - May 10, 2023

Series: DIFFERENCE MAKER | Week 2

OVERVIEW

LINKS FOR STUDENTS GROUPS VIDEO

[Dropbox Link](#)

[YouTube Link](#) -

BOTTOM LINE

Influences over time equals us.

SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 12:1-15

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

Give space for students to recognize the ways their influences affect them, and challenge them to consider the Lord's influence becoming more prominent in their lives.

THINK ABOUT THIS

This week's message does not shy away from challenging hearers about the ways they are being influenced. The reality is this issue is not a student-specific issue. Our stories as young adults, as adults, as adults who are married, single, kids, no kids....it doesn't matter: each of us goes through cycles where we are overly influenced by the world. We are indeed sinful people. Our stories are not perfect, and neither are our student's stories. This should come clearly from us if we are sharing our stories at some point in this conversation.

[continued on next page]

GROUP TIME

NOTE: Think about your students and contextualize the lesson you want them to have. From there, adjust the questions and activities as needed. Don't feel like you need to do or ask everything you see here. There is too much here for you to accomplish in one night, so choose prayerfully and keep your students in mind.

ICEBREAKER (5 minutes):

One to two questions to open the conversation up.

1. If you were honest, other than sleep, what do you spend most of your time doing in a week?
 - a. School?
 - b. Sports/Extracurricular?
 - c. Family Time?
 - d. Video Games/Social Media?
 - e. Listen to Music?
 - f. Something else?

SAY: The influences in our lives are not always negative. But over time, our personalities, our behaviors, our beliefs, tend to trickle towards what is placed directly in front of us, or at least what is most commonly in front of us. To illustrate this, let's use some water.

ILLUSTRATION (2 minutes)

<leader, have a water bottle, or borrow some water from a student who may have some water>

Find a flat surface that you can move, so a small desk, a small table or chair, but you want it flat. Illustrate the small pool of water being poured as us, and the influences on our lives topple us one way or the other. Now, the illustration could be made multiple ways, but ultimately what you are wanting to describe is that we move in the ways we are influenced.

But the opposite is also not so great. If I leave this table still, notice how the water doesn't move at all. It is almost as if it is scared to spill off, afraid to make a mess of things. This tells us that influences are going to always be there. But it is our responsibility to figure out how to keep ourselves in check while still, as scripture says, "be in the world but not of it."

DISCUSSION (6-10 minutes):

Use this section to help further the group to the material

1. When you think about the water illustration, what makes sense about it? Where would you disagree? *<there are no perfect metaphors, and this question could allow for someone's viewpoint to appear>*
2. What do you think are the primary influences when you look at the landscape of your peers?

TRANSITION POINT: Let's allow this scripture to help us investigate the role influences can play in our lives.

SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION (3-5 minutes)

Provide questions to help reading comprehension and guide students to key portions of the text

READ 1 KINGS 12:1-15

1. Who did Rehoboam (rey-oh-bow-um) ask for counsel first in verse 6? What was their response?
2. Who did Rehoboam ask for counsel second? What was their response?

APPLICATION DISCUSSION (15 minutes):

Use this section to ask specific questions from the text to drive discussion and interaction with the concepts of the lesson.

1. What is the counsel you receive from a parent, coach, or teacher, that can go in one ear and out the other? Why do you think that is?
2. Beyond seeking advice, how could an older person's perspective shape you positively? Negatively?
3. Take a look at verse 15. What do you find here that may be shocking about the story? *<this was God's will> **For more information, chapter 11:26-40** (this was God's ultimate judgment on Solomon for disobeying the Lord's command to not marry foreign women)*
4. Going back to the icebreaker question and what we spend most of our time doing in a week. We agree that not everything we do in a given week is good and helpful, the appropriate influence. Is there a way those specific items could be repurposed to provide a better influence on us?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE | READ SCRIPTURE (5-15 minutes)

Spend whatever time you have left diving into a few of the passages our speaker spoke on tonight. They are listed below. You can also bring your own verses with you, too. Your goal for this time is to allow students to hear some more truth about wisdom, about maturity, about character, and ultimately about the ways we are influenced, both positively or negatively.

Prov. 13:20

1 Cor 15:33

Galatians 5:7-9

Proverbs 27:17

TRY THIS THIS WEEK:

Take one of these verses above and commit it to memory this week!