

# WIN THE DAY

WEEK #2

## *Middle School* **Connect Group Leader Sheet** How to Think Exceptionally

### **Share (Optional):**

Each week we invite one or two people to briefly share their life stories, explaining what has brought them to where they are today. Who would like to share today?

### **Connect:**

1. What makes you smile?
2. In history, who can you think of that saw the world differently than the rest of their culture?
3. Who is or was one of the most positive influences in your life? What about the most negative?

### **Grow:**

**Watch Video #1 approx. 7min** - *Is there anything from this clip that convicts you or inspires you? Explain.*

**SAY:** Winners think exceptionally. They think differently than how “the world thinks.” They think differently than how they once used to think.

- 1) *Do you think you are generally more optimistic or pessimistic?*
- 2) *What do you think other people around you would say about how you view the world or other people? (Optimistic or Pessimistic? Hopeful or hopeless? Generally inspired or frustrated?)*
- 3) *Is there anything you would like to change about the way you currently tend to think? Explain.*
- 4) *Do you think there are any advantages in having a negative attitude or outlook in life? Why?*
- 5) *What have you noticed regarding positive versus negative attitudes at school or at home?*
- 6) *What do you think it takes to permanently change a person’s mind or attitude?*

**Read Romans 12:2** *“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

**Watch Video #2 approx. 5min** *Is there anything from this clip that convicts you or inspires you? Explain.*

**SAY:** There’s a conflict between how culture wants you to think and how God wants us to think.

- 7) *Do you agree with the idea that culture is out to get you? Why?*
- 8) *Can you think of any other examples where culture baits you and then discards you?*

READ the following Scriptures and review the eight ways to renew your mind.

SHARE what each way could look like in your own life and any additional thoughts you may have.

### **Eight ways to renew your mind and think exceptionally:**

- 1) **Surrender**...instead of fighting God’s will and God’s ways. **Read Romans 12:1**
- 2) **Find your lane and run your race**...instead of comparing yourself to those around you. **Read Romans 12:3**
- 3) **Think like a team player**...instead of making it all about you. **Read Romans 12:5**
- 4) **Pay attention**...instead of ignoring the tension going on inside of you. **Read Romans 12:9**
- 5) **Do what’s best for people**...instead of avoiding people who have problems. **Read Romans 12:10**
- 6) **Stay on the field**...instead of retiring from God’s Kingdom work. **Read Romans 12:11**
- 7) **Lean in**...instead of trying to live and solve problems according to your own wisdom. **Read Romans 12:13**
- 8) **Love those who don’t love you**...instead of wishing difficulties upon them. **Read Romans 12:14-20 & Matthew 5:43-45**

## **Move:**

Pick at least one of the eight ways to renew your mind this week. Share which one you pick.  
This week, read Romans 12 and memorize Romans 12:2.

## **Think:**

How might thinking exceptionally become a skill worth developing and displaying to win the day?

## **Spend some time praying for each other.**

## **Announcements:**

No Wednesday Groups Next Week! – Go to the **Blackout** Collective = Feb 27

**Extra Time?** Watch and talk through Video Clip #3.

## **Scripture:**

*Please encourage students to bring their Bibles to group. If you need to borrow some, they are available in Room 226. Please make sure these are returned.*

## **Romans 12 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup>For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup>if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup>if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

<sup>9</sup>Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup>Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

<sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup>Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup>On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

<sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.