

WIN THE DAY

WEEK #4

Middle School

Connect Group Leader Sheet

How to Team Up for the Impossible

NOTE: Remember, start the group with something fun and encourage them to get to know each other. Maybe play a quick trivia game (just search for free party game apps for some options). This helps them be prepared to share in group too. Also, always encourage answers from the students. If an answer seems incorrect, instead of just saying it's wrong, encourage them to look at it from a different perspective to find the right answer.

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 do you think are your most annoying traits?
2. How many close friends do you think you have? Are you okay with that number? Why?
3. Who is the MVP in your life right now?

Grow:

Watch Video Clip #1 (approx. 5 min) 1) What stands out to you from this clip? Explain.

Read Romans 3:9-12.

2) What do you think this scripture says about being smart without God's wisdom? (It's useless)

3) What is autonomy? (to become completely independent of anyone else)

SAY: Winners Work as a Team. Autonomy often leaves us weak and alone. Chasing a real relationship with God and God's people is way more rewarding.

4) Why do you think looking out for #1 (your own success) can become intoxicating and addictive?

5) How easy is it for you to be honest about your weaknesses?

6) Who do you feel you can talk to about your weaknesses?

7) Do you think you can be around a bunch of people and still feel lonely?

8) What kinds of people do you like to hang out with? Why?

9) Do you have people who make up for your weaknesses in your life? If so, do you consider them close friends?

Read Romans 12:3-8, 18, and Romans 14:7-8.

Watch Video Clip #2 (approx. 5 min) 10) What does this video make you think about most? Explain.

11) What teams are you a part of? How well would you say these teams function? Why?

12) Do you think that it's tempting to want to do things alone? Explain.

13) What can make it difficult to collaborate with others?

14) Why do you think some people focus on blaming others and breaking up the team rather than building up their team?

15) What would you say are your top strengths or gifts?

16) Do you know anybody who is doing or pursuing something that they are not talented in? Why do you think they do that?

17) Who affirms you and your gifts? Who do you affirm? Where do you best fit within the body of Christ?

SAY: When we humbly connect with and work together as the Body of Christ, anything becomes possible. Winners Believe the Impossible. They come together as a team to unleash the power and love of Jesus to overcome any obstacle!

Read Romans 8:31-39

Move:

As a team list some prayer requests that seem impossible. Commit to pray for the impossible this week.

Think:

How might believing the impossible inspire hope in others?

Pray: Write down prayer requests and answered prayer:

If you have time: **Watch Video Clip #3** (approx. 6 min) and discuss what it means to believe the impossible!

SCRIPTURES:

Romans 3:9-12 (NLT)

⁹ Well then, should we conclude that we Jews are better than others? No, not at all, for we have already shown that all people, whether Jews or Gentiles, are under the power of sin. ¹⁰ As the Scriptures say, “No one is righteous— not even one. ¹¹ No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. ¹² All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one.”

Romans 12:3-8, 18

Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. ⁴ Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, ⁵ so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

⁶ In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. ⁷ If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. ⁸ If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

¹⁸ Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

Romans 14:7-8

⁷ For we don't live for ourselves or die for ourselves. ⁸ If we live, it's to honor the Lord. And if we die, it's to honor the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

Romans 8:31-39

³¹ What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? ³² Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? ³³ Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. ³⁴ Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

³⁵ Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ³⁶ (As the Scriptures say, “For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.”) ³⁷ No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.