



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

THROUGH THE DARKNESS | WEEK 2

BOTTOM LINE

WHEN IT COMES TO TRAGEDY, BE A FRIEND NOT A FIXER.

SCRIPTURE

Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God" (Ruth 1:16 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students see the importance of simply being there for people who are going through a tragedy, even if they don't know what to say.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Leaders — It's easy to feel pressure to have all the right things to say in a tragedy, but often the most helpful thing you can do is listen. Listen to stories. Listen to feelings. Just listen.

SAY THIS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some things your parents or stepparents say to you when you're having a bad day or going through a tough time?
2. When someone close to you is going through a tragedy, are you more likely to act like everything is normal, talk too much, or avoid them altogether?
3. When someone close to you is going through a painful situation, why is it sometimes uncomfortable to be around them?
4. Naomi pushed her daughters-in-law away. Why do you think it's so easy to push people away when you face tragedy?
5. Why is it sometimes difficult to believe that God can use you to help somebody who's hurting? What are some ways that people truly help other people heal?
6. Why is it important to be there for people, even when you don't have the right words to say?
7. When it comes to tragedy, what do a friend and a fixer do differently?

TRY THIS

Leaders — Encourage your students to do the three short prayer guides we provided for this week.