



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

THROUGH THE DARKNESS | WEEK 1

BOTTOM LINE

BEFORE YOU CAN HEAL, YOU HAVE TO FEEL.

SCRIPTURE

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" (John 11:33-36 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students understand that honestly admitting their pain is more helpful than running from it, ignoring it, or covering it up.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Leaders — Ask how each student is feeling. Every tragedy is unique and every student will experience it differently. Help them manage those emotions by learning to voice them.

SAY THIS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When it comes to tragedy are you currently observing one, experiencing one, or have you survived one?
2. What are some ways you've seen people handle tragedy? Give examples.
3. Think about the last time you were in a darkness situation. What did you feel? (*Leaders—This doesn't have to be a global crisis. It could've just been a bad day.*)
4. When tragedy struck, Martha called Jesus out, while Mary avoided Him. Which do you relate to most?
5. Jesus wept. What does that show you about Jesus?
6. What holds you back from being honest with God about your pain?
7. Who is one person you can talk to when you're going through dark times?

TRY THIS

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