



GROUP UP | 9-11-24

LARGE GROUP INTRO: Life is better in Groups (25 minutes)

We'll start off with a big game of "Can-Can." Students will group up (likely by grade) and make a big circle holding hands around a garbage can. On go, they'll pull each other, trying to avoid touching the garbage can in the center. If you break hands or touch the can, you're out, and the circle resets. The last few remaining will move on to a championship round so see which grade wins.

Then we'll play this silly video about "[Unlikely Animal Friends](#)" to transition into our groups talking about the importance of finding solid friends (including meeting new ones tonight) and how we can make this a great year in JHM Groups! You'll determine values for your group but something we want to be true of them all is that everyone is safe, honest, welcome & committed.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (50 minutes)

Our number one goal tonight is to establish values for your group this year (while helping everyone get to know each other). You may consider STAYING ALL TOGETHER this week for the discussion of your group's values for the year.

GROUP SPACES

8th Girls – Upper Room/Nook

7th Girls – Hub

6th Girls – Waterside

8th Boys – 2nd Grade

7th Boys – 4-5yr/K-1 Room

6th Boys – 3yr Room

Share and Share Alike (*If your group already knows each other well, and you think you'll be tight on time, you could skip this*)

Go around and ask your group members to choose three things they're either wearing or carrying that reveal something about them. If you have students who don't have anything on them, let them point out physical characteristics that reveal something about them. If you want to spend more extra time on this have them share a story about each item or physical characteristic (i.e. story about their scar or why this is their favorite shirt).

Group Values

Whether we know it or not, everyone and every group/organization has values and things that are important to them. Sometimes people name them and put them up on a wall, other times they don't even realize what they are. Still, everyone has values.

1. What do you think are some the values of West Side as a church?
2. What do you think the top values at your school are? Why/how do you know?
3. What would you say are three of the most important values for your family?

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 together. God designed us to live life with others. We weren't meant to be alone. That's what our JHM Group is for. Everyone should have people to have fun with and people who care about them. That's what we want to do this year! The best groups are intentional about how they treat each other, though.

1. Let's brainstorm. What are some values or rules that might help make our group a safe & fun place for everyone this year? (Write them on a board, large piece of paper, etc. Or write each on a sheet of paper and lay them out on the floor and have everyone stand and look at the ideas.
2. Hearing those ideas, which 3-5 do you think would be the most important for us to commit to? (You could even have people go around and put a mark on the 3-5 they think are most important, then talk about why).

ECCLESIASTES 4:9-10

*Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor:
If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.*

HIGH/LOW/GOD THING (15 minutes) *You may not have as much time for this tonight. If not, it's ok. You can pick it up next week.*

Depending on group size, you might split into even smaller (shepherding) groups for this. Have each student go around and identify a highlight of their week, a low point from their week and where they have seen God show up in their week. This time is to help them see God around them, to celebrate when something goes well and for them to be supported when they have had a rough week. If you're short on time, let them choose one of those three to share (or give them 24 words to share as many of those three as they can since it's the start of the '24 school year).

PRAY

Leaders, pray out loud for your group, the students in your group and the school year. We will eventually encourage the students to pray in the group, so the more they see you model this the more they will have confidence to do so!

Unless you hear otherwise, the gym is not open this week. If you finish early, hang out in your room and play a game (2 truths and a lie, etc.). together or go outside until 7:30PM. No one should be anywhere other than with you or your group room.