

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDES

FRIDAY NIGHT

PROBLEM

What is most important?

BOTTOM LINE

Put first things first

TODAY IN LARGE GROUP

We've all packed bags for trips before. We all know the anxiety of trying to figure out what to wear, what we'll need on the trip, and how much space we have left in our bag. We also know the anxiety that comes with trying to fit everything that is expected of us into our busy weeks. We know the headaches that arise at the interception of what we want to do and what we actually have time to do. How does a student handle these stresses? In tonight's session, we'll turn to Jesus' words in Matthew 6 about making sure we put first things first. He tells his followers to make sure they have their priorities straight and put the kingdom of God first. We are going to challenge our students to consider what they are packing into their lives and if those things are the most important ones.

QUESTION FROM STAGE

For most middle schoolers, what is the first thing they would put in their bag?

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- What worries do you think the average middle schooler has the most?
- What non-material things keep a middle schooler up at night? (e.g., popularity, tests, being accepted, finding something they are good at)
- In a busy season in life, what is a student most likely to forget to pack into their life (friends, family, sports, school, faith, service, etc.)?

Read **MATTHEW 6:31–33**:

So do not worry, saying, “What shall we eat?” or “What shall we drink?” or “What shall we wear?” For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

- What does Jesus say should be our first priority?
- What frees us from worrying about the other things we may need (knowing that “your heavenly Father knows” you need them)?
- Does God really know or care about all the things you may need as a middle schooler?
- What are your biggest priorities right now?
- What do you think you need to take out of your bag and leave behind?
- What habits/practices do you need to add to your bag to more effectively follow Jesus?

LEADERS: If a student in your group accepted Christ tonight you can turn to page 8 for a guide on leading that discussion. There are more resources in the “Salvation Bags” located in the Leader Lounge. Please feel free to pick one up for any student who makes this decision here at camp.