



In-N-Out

Week 1: SKO / Welcome to the Family

What we want students to learn: Christ-followers, no matter how different they are, are united by the name and blood of Jesus.

What we want students to do with what they've learned: Fight for unity in their small groups, at their campus and everywhere they go.

Large Group Message Focus: John 17:20-23 - Are we fighting for the unity Jesus prayed for?

Scripture Focus: John 17:20-23

The Main Point

For a student, summer begins a season of endless possibilities. It is likely they have already been thinking of what they will do this summer and who they will do it with. For the first half of group today, simply spend time talking to your students about their upcoming summer.

Then, we will begin our new series “in-n-out.” While “in-n-out” is a popular burger place west of us, it is possible they have caught onto something the church should be doing. No, we aren’t talking about delicious cheeseburgers and fries, we are talking about the power of going “in-n-out.” During “in-n-out” we will be showing our students how Jesus has empowered them to invite people “in” to the church and take their story “out” with them wherever they go. As we begin today, we want students to understand why we are even asking them to invite their friends here anyway. What is it about the church that should encourage us to invite others to come take part?

INTRODUCTION

- **What is your favorite summer memory?**
- **What is your favorite thing to do during the summer?**
- **High School Only** - When is the last time summer didn’t turn out quite as you had planned? What happened?

PRAY as you begin your small group time tonight that students would be encouraged in their relationship with Jesus this summer, ready to grow closer to Him than ever before.

BEST SUMMER YET

- **What would need to happen this summer to make it the best summer yet?**

- *These answers don't have to be "spiritual." Encourage your students to be honest. Jesus wants them to have a great summer and he really does care about what they want.*
- **What is one way you will grow closer to Jesus this summer?**
 - ***Small Group Leaders, write this down!*** Then, when August hits, you can see how they did.

LESSON

- **What kinds of things do you think Jesus prayed for when he was on earth?**

Now have your students read John 17:20-23.

John 17:20-23 - "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

Jesus prayed for you and he prayed for the church. Now, he prayed for other things too, but these two things are our focus for the day. Now, discuss the following questions.

- **What was Jesus praying for?**
- **What does the word "unity" mean to you?**
 - *Dictionary definition: state of being united or joined as a whole.*
- **Unity is a "hot topic" in the world around us. How do you see people fighting for "unity" in the world around you?**
- **High School Only** - **Would you consider the church to be united? Why or why not?**

LIFE APPLICATION

- **How can we, as a small group, grow in unity this summer?**
- **What is one step you will take to personally make that happen?**

CLOSING CHALLENGE

As you close out small group tonight, play this quick, fun game.

The goal: Everyone in the group to discover something they all have in common. Give your students two minutes to discover something they all have in common. However, they cannot use **grade, gender, school, or church** as the thing they all have in common.

Then say something to the effect of, we are all a whole lot more alike than we are different. We all have dreams and desires. What if, this summer, instead of focusing on what makes us different, our small group set the example to be unified just as Jesus prayed for?

TAKE IT OUT

Close small group out with prayer requests. Pray that your group would grow noticeably in unity this summer.

After prayer, be sure to remind them of MOVEMENT CONFERENCE and the weekend services.