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# SUPPLIES NEEDED

» CD player (optional)

» CD with worship music (optional)

» Potatoes- one per teenager (you could substitute sorne kind of fruit for the potatoes, if ne cessary)

» Permanent marker s

» Slip s of paper with step -by-ste p directions from your meeting site to Anchorage, Alaska

» A Bibl e

» Six large boxes or pill ows or other large but light , c arry- able item s; you want enough of the same item that it creates a visual roadblo ck to move the stack from one side of your meeting room to the other side - and if you use boxes, you can

bring them collapsed and ask the kids to help you assemble them

# PREPARATION

» Pray for your teenagers and your meeting

» Review this lesson

» Gather supplies

» Selec t songs for trie Wor sr1ip Time

» Print out directions to Anc horage, Alaska, and cut the steps into individual slips

**SUPPLIES :** a potato anda permanent marker for each teenager in your group. (You cou ld substitute sorne kind of fruit for the potatoes, if nec essary.)

**1 36** L.Ef\DER G U J D E 1

Warmly welcome everyone to the group.

**1** l ave your teenagers sit in a circle on the floor. Give

, :ach one a potato. Encourage them to get to know their 1 ,otato by using ali their senses - smell it , touc h it, taste il, see it, even listen to it! Have kids each use a marker [() write their name on their potato. Then after a few

111inu tes, take their pot atoes away.

/\sk your teenagers to close their eyes . One ata time,

¡iuss the potatoes around the circle. Wh en kids think lhey're holding their original potato , have them place lheir potato in their lap and continue passing the

e >l her potatoe s.

( ) nce ali the potatoes have been select ed, h ave kids c Jp en their eyes to see if they c ho se correctly.

# ASK:

## » How successful were you at determ ining which potato was yours?

» **How easy or difficult was it for you to "know "**

**your potato?**

» **What unique features stood out about your potato?**

» **How wer e ali the potatoes similar? diffe rent?**

» **In what ways are we similar? different?**

» **Tell one unique thing about you that others in our group may not know.**

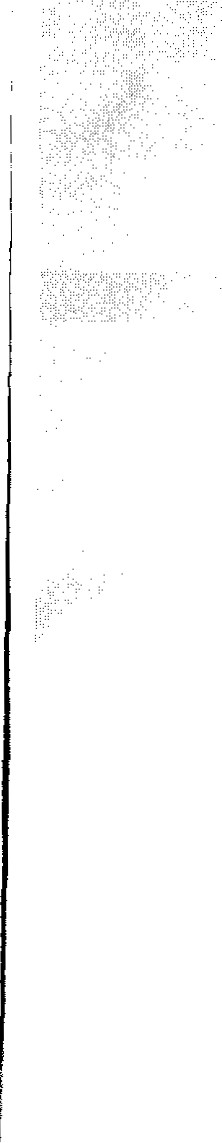
**TUR N**

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To br idge into your worship time, have kids each fin d their pota to if they haven't already, then use a marker to write words on their pota to that describe sorne of Gods'

c ha racter qualities. lf neces sary, p rompt your group with such quali ties as "l oving" or "compas sionat e. "

Use an Internet mapmaking site (Google Maps or MapOuest, fo r example) to create a step -b y-step map lrom your meeting place to Anchorage, Alaska. Cut lhe steps into separate slip s of paper. Shuffle slips so lhey'r e in rand om order, and be sure no slip actual ly 11ames Anchorage as the destination - also be sure to cut off any numbers that indi cate if it' s the first step, second step, and so on. You'II also need the boxes or

Af et

r a few minutes, ask your teenagers to share the

pillows or other large but light, carry-able items.

word s Hiey wro te. Then have them pick the one word they like the best and, silently in prayer, thank God for that attribut e.

Then lead kids in three familiar worship songs. lf you have a youth band, invite the group to lead your

teenagers in worship. Otherwise, play the songs froma CDa nd encourage kids to sing along - or simp ly play the m us ic as everyone sits and thinks about tt1e word s of

the songs.

T he n have everyone read aloud , together, this wEJeks' beatilu cj o: *"Happ y aro the rw mk" (Matttww 5:5 GNT.)*

**111111 TEACHING TIM,**

**SUPPLIES:** step -by -step directions from your meeting s1te to Anch orage, Alaska; a Bible ; and boxes or pi llows or ot her large but light, carry -able items.

**13 8** LEAIHR GUlíH

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Distribute slips so everyone has one. lf there aren' t enough slips, give them to pairs or trios of kids.

## SAY: In Principie 1, you faced sorne of the hurts, hang-ups and habits in your life and got real about what's wrong and what's right in your life. In Principie 2, you started to believe that God has the power

**to help you change. Today, we 're going to start on Principie 3, where we'II need to make a commitment to trust our lives to Jesus. When we say, "Happy**

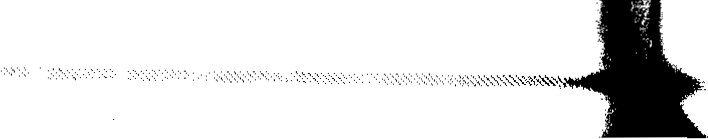
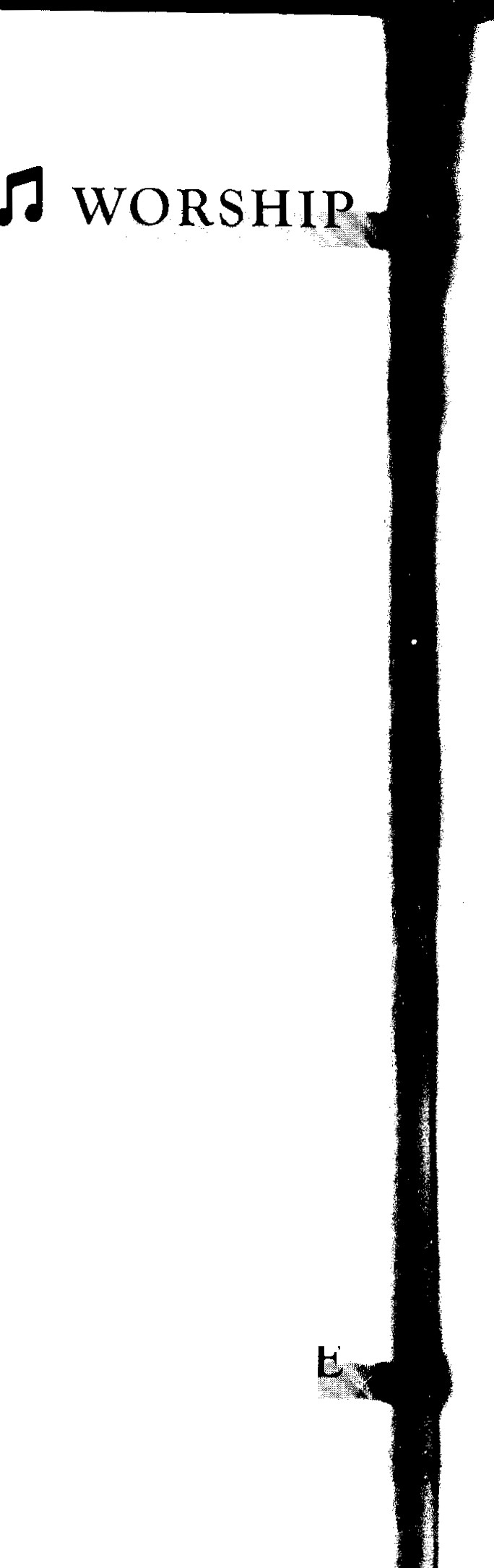
**are the meek," we begin to see ourselves as God sees us.**

Pray for you r group, thankin g God for what he's doing in the li ves of your teenagers and bringing you to this point in The Landing journey.

## lt's never too early to plan for spring break! l've found an uncrowded , beachfront spot with an ocean view- but you have to figure out where it is. You've got three minutes to assemble these directions to your scenic spring break paradise.

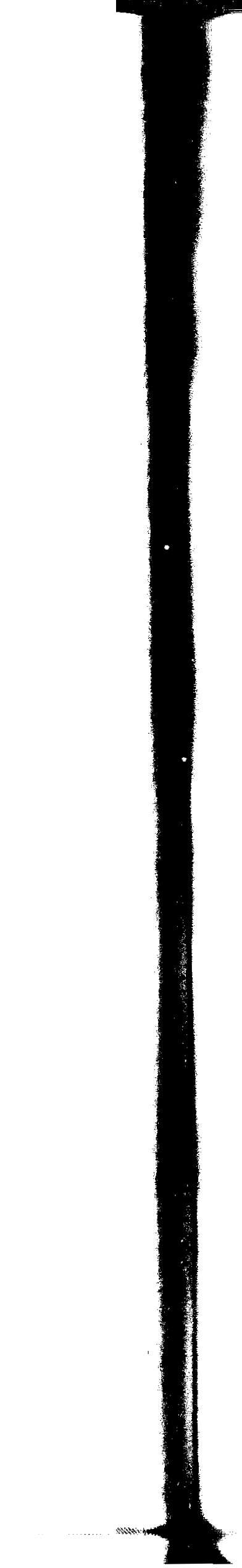
**TURN**







After three minutes, ask for the directions to be read back to you - in order. lf kids identified the location, congratulate them. lf not, praise their effort and help them put the directions in the right order.



## Ask teenagers to form tríos. Then SAY: You worked hard to get directions to Alaska, but that doesn't mean much if that's not where you want to spend spring break. Doing a great job going the wrong way isn't a good thing.

**ASK:**

» **Tell about a time you worked nard to accomplish something and later discovered it wasn't worth the effort.**

Ask a spokesperson from each group to tell the whole group about insights from their discu ssions.

## SA Y: People can do terrible things with the best intentions. Sorne of the people who crucified Jesus were trying to avoid political conflict. Others acted out of religious conviction. Yet they were wrong. The Apostle Peter spoke to sorne of the people who'd stood by and let Jesus be crucified. Listen to what Peter says.

Read aloud Ac ts 2:3 6-39.

# ASK:

## » How would you have felt if you'd heard Peter say this? Explain.

**1 40** LEA D l-: R G U ! D l 1

» What are sorne things you've done-maybe with great intentions-that have taken you in the wrong direction?

## SAY: lt wasn't enough for the people Peter was addressing to feel sorry or learn from their

**experience. They had to repent-to actively turn trom the direction they were going and head the other way. They turned from ignoring or dismissing Jesus to embracing him as their Savior. lf you were to "repent" of spending spring break in Anchorage, it calls for *not* going to Anchorage-but ita/so calls for going in the opposite direction (like to Florida).**

**You have to trust Jesus with your life-including your hurts, hang-ups, and habits-if you're intending to truly turn in the opposite direction.**

Now ask for volunt eers to help you pile the boxes (or pillows or other larg e but light, carry-able items that will block H1 e vision of the person carrying them) againsta wall. Oon't revea! what they're for. When you've finished, ask teenagers to forrn pairs next to the piles.

## SAY: Each team will now move the stack to the far wall and leave them there, stacked. We'II see which team can do this fastest. The person in your team whose birthday is closest to today will stack, and the other person will carry. You'II need to stack the boxes in a tower in the arms of your box-carrier. Get

**ready; you'II start across the room at my signal. Work together as you move your baggage to the far wall.**

**Stackers, if your partners drop anything, you've got**

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## to stack it back up for them-and give any directions that might be helpful. Move quickly. Once the first team is done, we'II see how well the second team does. Go!

Be sure each pair has a stack that will block the vision of the person carrying them. Use a watch, wall clock, or cell phone to time how long it takes each pair to transport the boxes to the far wal1.

After you've determined a winning team, have pairs form foursomes and discuss these questions.

**ASK:**

## » What strategies helped your pair move the boxes to the far wall and back?

» **How was this activity like living your daily life?**

» **How was this activity like living your Christian life?**

Ask a spokesperson from each foursome to share insights that emerged during their discussions.

## SAY: lt's tough navigating when you're carrying extra baggage. That's true physically, and it's true spiritually with our hurts, hang-ups, and habits.

Read aloud Hebrews 12: 1.

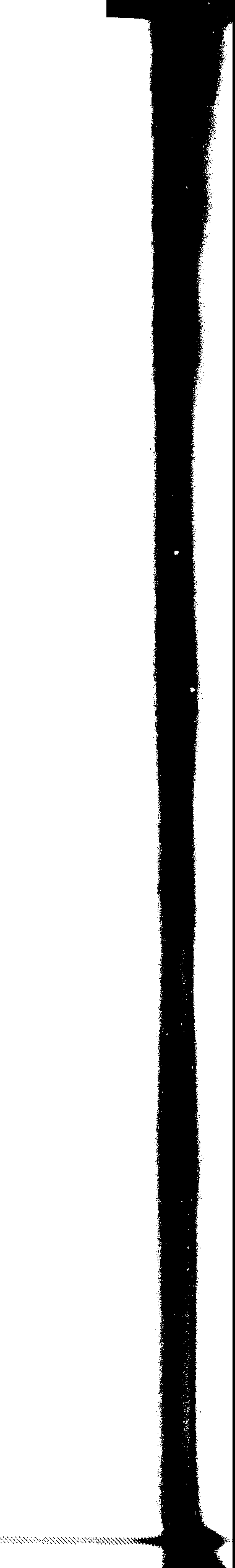
## before us. The good news is that we don't have to carry it. We can turn in the opposite direction (repent) and be forgiven by others and by God.

/\sk your teenagers to pick up the boxes, then form a drcle. Then read aloud 1 John 1 :8-9.



## SAY: Let this box represent the bad choices in your life. As we pause for a few minutes of silence, pray silently. Ask God to let you know what he'd like you to give to him-your actions, your attitudes, your hidden moments. Mentally place those sins in your box. God doesn't want them to ensnare you. He's ready to forgive you-if you confess those failures to him. Let God take care of them.

Close in a prayer of thanksgiving for God's forgiveness.



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## SAY: Our hurts, hang-ups, and habits are peace­ robbers-baggage that ensnares us, distracts us, and keeps us from doing the things God has set

**TURN 14]**

**ii**.**i SMALL G RO URS.** ·

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Pr i or to beginning your small group, read through the11

fo ll o wing Small Group Guidelines with your teenagers\_:j ¡

## . Focus on your own thoughts and feelings when sharing with the group.

**2. Please avoid ALL cross talk.**

* **; a. We are here to support one another.**

**4. Value and protect anonymity and confidentiality**

**5.. Avoid offensive language; it has no place in a Christ centered group.**

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)are to model these

lead the discussion.

Break your larger group into small groups of three or more, with a conversation leader in each one. To prime the pump for disc ussion, have the leaders begin the

s mall group time with an app ropriate personal story of a timew hen he or she repented of something in their lite, an d what he or she did to trust God in that situation.

Then have group s each discuss U1ese questions (available on the CD-ROM).

Re mernb er, as the leader, you may want to model sorne o f these answ ers for your group by sharing fr om your own exp erience .

## Couldn't we just decide to stop doing those things and move on? Explain.

» **What has been the hardest thing about giving up sorne of your hurts , hang-ups, and habits?**

» **What have been the fruits-or good results-of repentance in your life? What are the good results of giving up those things?**

» **How can we really be sure God will forgive us if we turn away from those things and go to h'1m**?**.**

Ask kids to pray for the person on their right. They can pray silently, or if you ask them to pray out loud , they could either all pray at once or pray one at a time around the group-it ali depend s on the comfort level of your group. Once the teenagers are done praying, thank God for giv ing everyone the co urage to repent.

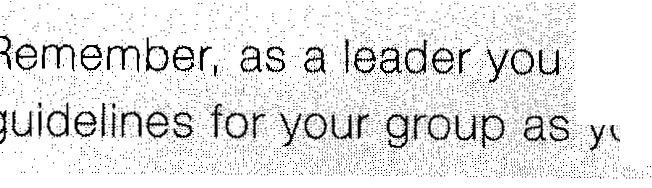
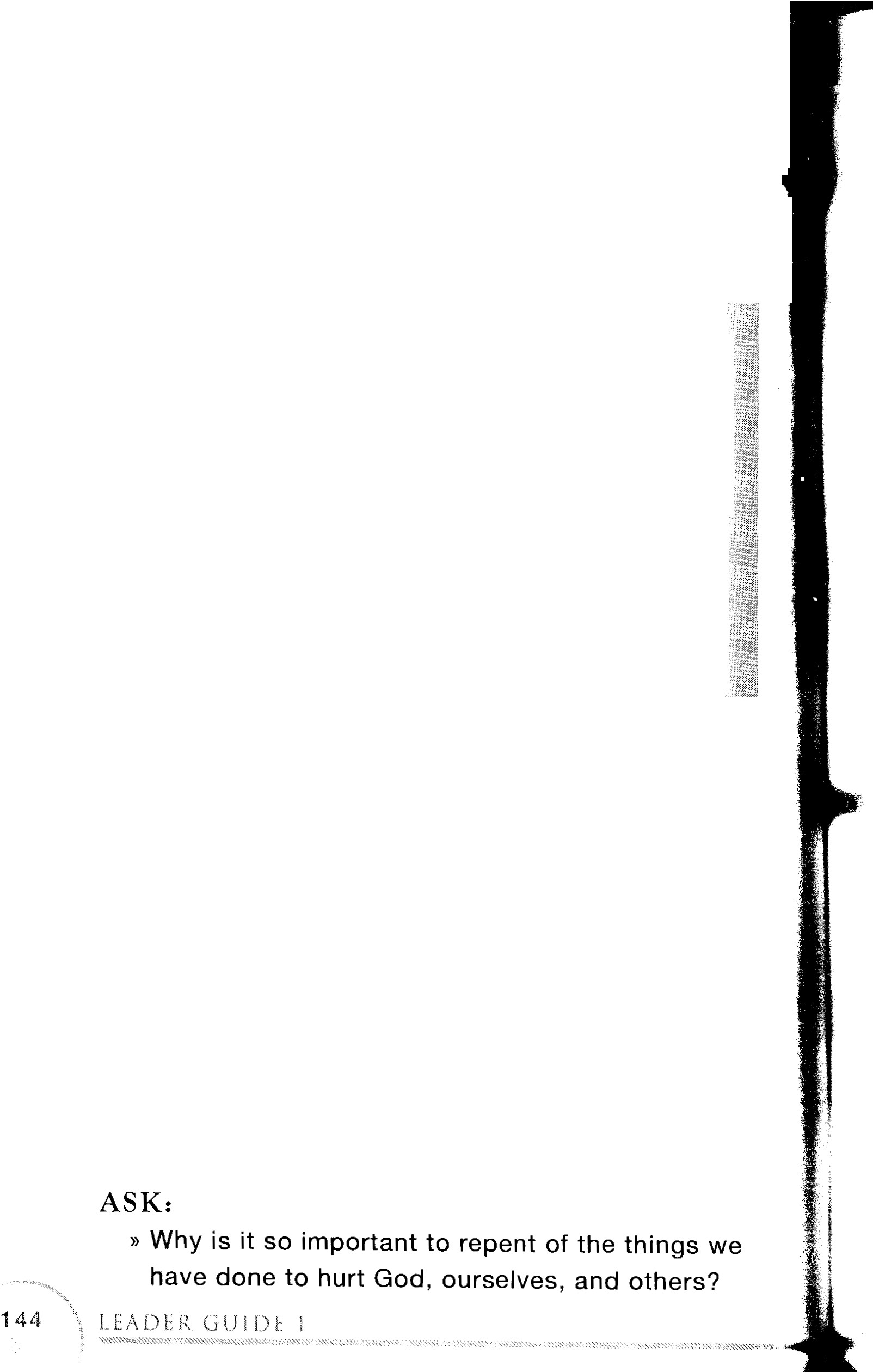


## Don't forget to remind your students to spend time with their journals this week, reflecting on what God is teaching them during this journey.

Close by reading the Serenity Prayer together (available on p. 3 of their Student Journal). Keep in mind , sorne teenag ers may not want to read aloud with the rest of the group. That's OK; enco urage them to foc us on the word s be ing shared .

**TURN**







## God, grant me the serenity

**to accept the things** I **cannot change, the courage to change the things** I **can, and the wisdom to know the difference .**

**Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time;**

**Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace; Taking, as Jesus did,**

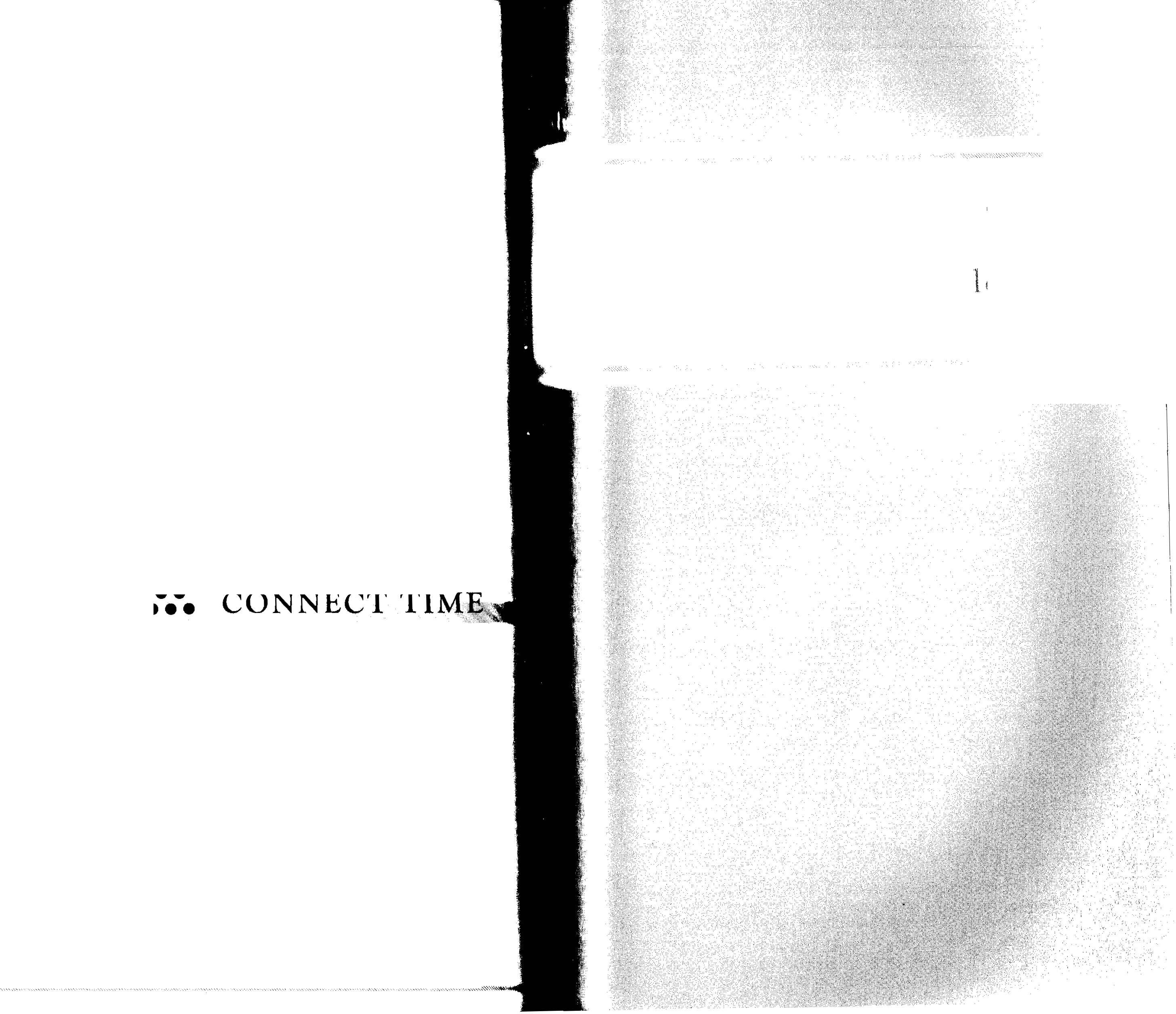
**this sinful world as it is; Not as** I **would have it;**

**Trusting that you will make all things right lf** I **surrender to your will; So that 1**

**may be reasonably happy in this lite and supremely happy with you forever in the next. AM EN.**

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- Reinh old Niebuhr

S erve refreshrnents of sorne kind so kids and leaders c an hang out and connect. Consider having sorne

l 1 ealthy op tions for those wr10 rnay use fo od as aw ay o f c op ing. A pin g-p o n g table, fo osba ll table, or even afew b o ard games will give teenagers an excuse to connect.

**146** LEADFR GUtDE 1