

### SERIES OVERVIEW

The Bible can be somewhat overwhelming for middle school students. How do I read it? How do I understand it? What do I do with what I read? These are all questions we will address as we try to make this *long story short*.

### BOTTOM LINE

When we follow Jesus, our actions reflect his.

### SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (NIV)

### DISCUSSION GUIDE

*Small Group Leaders, use the questions below to guide your conversation.*

#### CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What books did you read in ELA (English class) this year? Did you have any favorites?
- What life lessons did those books teach?
- Did you need a teacher to tell you those lessons or did you figure it out for yourself?

#### EXPLORE THE BIBLE

- Do you think the Bible is a book you can read and learn from?
- When we read the letters in the New Testament, what two questions can we ask?
  - What action word stands out to you?
  - How can I put what I read into action?
- Pull out your Bibles, find 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18, and read it out loud.
- What action word stands out to you? Why do you think it stood out?
- How can you put into action what you read?
- What can you do *this week* according to 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18?

#### READING PLAN

- *Pass out the Bible Reading Plan. Have students find each Scripture passage for that week in their Bible. Use the sticky notes to bookmark each passage for easy finding.*
- What day and time do you want to read the Bible this week?
- How can you keep track of the action words you find and what you want to do after you read that Scripture?

**LEADERS** – Be present with your students on this Bible reading journey! Here are some ways you can be present: Text them Monday to remind them to read. On Wednesday, ask what they're learning or if you can help. On Saturday, share what you're learning!