

BACK TO SCHOOL

Conversation Leader Guide



A simple gathering to help girls slow down, connect with one another, and step into the school year with intentionality.

THE HEART BEHIND THIS GATHERING A new school year can hold excitement, worry, hope, and pressure all at once. This gathering creates room for girls to name what they are carrying, listen well to one another, and remember they do not walk into the year alone.

GATHER

Make room for honest conversation and meaningful connection.

GROW

Bring what their carrying into God's Light.

GO

Carry one truth into the school year through a handmade bookmark.

OVERVIEW

- Suggested length: 2 hours
- Includes: conversation, craft, and prayer
- Keep it simple: invite girls to bring a favorite snack to share

WHAT TO PREPARE

- Print and cut one set of the conversation cards
- Gather bookmark supplies (consider making a sample bookmark in advance)
- Pray for each girl by name and ask God to guide the conversation

SUGGESTED AGENDA

TIME	WHAT TO DO
10 min	Welcome girls and share snacks
10 min	Simple summer high-and-low icebreaker
45 min	Have a brave conversation using conversation cards
45 min	Create Scripture bookmarks
10 min	Share one takeaway and close in prayer.

WELCOME

You don't have to make everything perfect. A few snacks, a comfortable place to sit, and your attention can go a long way.

EASY ICEBREAKER: Invite each person to share one summer high and one summer low. Go first, by sharing an honest answer, so girls know both joy and disappointment are welcome in the room.

MAKE IT SAFE & ENGAGING

- Let the girls know this is a safe space to be honest. The best answer is an honest one.
- Listen more than you speak.
- Resist the urge to fix, preach at, or rescue.
- Don't require a girl to share. Make room without putting her on the spot.
- Notice and affirm evidence of godly thinking, courage, character, or growth.
- Model authenticity without making the conversation about you.

HOW TO USE THE CONVERSATION CARDS

1. Place the cards where everyone can see them.
2. Invite each girl to grab a conversation card she would like to host.
3. Ask someone to “be brave” and begin by reading their question aloud and answering it first.
4. Before moving on, invite everyone else to answer the same question.

FOLLOW THE CONVERSATION

When a girl shares, resist moving on too quickly or giving advice. Try:

- “That’s hard. Thank you for sharing that.”
- “Where have you noticed God in the middle of that?”
- “Something that really stood out in what you shared is the way you (list ways you recognized godly character or thinking).”

SCRIPTURE BOOKMARK

This simple bookmark gives girls a tangible way to carry truth with them into the school year. Invite each girl to choose a verse, Scripture reference, or brief truth from your conversation.

SUPPLIES

- 2 blank index cards per girl, trimmed to the same size
- Pens and highlighters
- Ribbon
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- String or embroidery floss



SCRIPTURE IDEAS

If a girl is having trouble finding a Scripture you can suggest one of these: Isaiah 41:10, Proverbs 3:5–6, Philippians 4:6–7, 1 Timothy 4:12, James 1:5, Colossians 3:17

HOW TO MAKE IT

1. Design the front of one index card and the back of another with color, patterns, and a verse or truth to remember.
2. Trim the ribbon so it frames the card.
3. Glue the ribbon to the blank side of one of the index cards.
4. Glue the second index card on top, blank sides together, sandwiching the ribbon between them.
5. Punch one hole near the top center.
6. Loop string or embroidery floss through the hole and tie securely.

Watch our Instagram Reel of this craft [here](#).

MAKE IT EASIER Trim the index cards and cut some ribbon before girls arrive. Keep a finished sample nearby, but encourage creativity rather than exact copying. Leave the bookmarks flat for a few minutes so the glue can set.

CLOSE THE GATHERING

Invite each girl to show her bookmark, share the truth she chose, and why. Close by praying over the girls, their schools, friendships, teachers, worries, and hopes.

PRAYER PROMPT Father, thank you that no girl walks into this school year alone. Help each one recognize Your presence, trust Your Word, love others well, and walk in courage. In Jesus Name, Amen.

What's one thing
on your heart
right now?

1

What's something
you're excited about
this school year?

2

What something
you are worried
about?

3

What's an area
you want to grow
in?

4

What will it look like
for you to prioritize
Jesus this school
year?

5

What's something
you need to
remember this
school year?

6