

# XP3

## THE INVISIBLES (1): Can You See Me? Middle School Small Group Dialog

**Bottom Line:** At some point in your life, you were invisible—but Jesus saw you.

**Scripture References:** John 5:6-9; Romans 5:6

This week's discussion presents a challenge. You have students in your group who get this concept on a very personal level. They feel invisible—at home, at school, in this group. And you have students who are completely oblivious to the concept. They have always felt known and noticed. So the challenge will be to provide a place where those students who feel invisible can be seen—to create an environment where they can be real and honest among their peers without fear of being rejected. Work also on leading those students who have never felt invisible to realize that they were once completely helpless, until Jesus took notice of them. But for all of us, because of Jesus' death and resurrection on the cross, we never have to feel invisible to God.

**Create meaningful conversation. Adjust questions as needed, and don't feel like you need to answer all of them.**

1. If you could have one superhero quality, what would it be and why?
2. You may think that having the superhero quality of being invisible would be fun, but it can be a lonely power. How was it a lonely power for the girl in *The Incredibles* movie clip?
3. Has there ever been a time when you have felt invisible? Have you ever felt that way here at church? At school? At home? When moving to a new town? When you feel that way, do you try to make yourself seen, or do you try to stay blended in and hope not to stick out?
4. Was there ever a person that caused you to feel invisible? What would it have meant to you for that person to really see you? Do you think there are people who have felt invisible around you? Why do you think that happens? What would it take for you to really see them?
5. Would you like it if you had to go back to a place where you don't feel like you were seen? Why not? Is it difficult to go back? Does it get better eventually? Would you rather not go at all?
6. What is the worst part about feeling like no one sees you, or about feeling like you are invisible somewhere?
7. We heard today about a man Jesus took notice of who had been crippled for 38 years. How do you think this man felt when Jesus took the time to stop and make a connection with Him? When Jesus asked the man at the pool if he wanted to get well, the man responded saying, "I have no one." If you had been in the man's position and Jesus asked if you wanted to get well, how would you have responded?
8. Why do you think Jesus chose to be at the pool of Bethesda with all of the crippled and sick people instead of someplace where all the powerful and influential people were?
9. How do you think the formerly crippled man's life was different once Jesus took notice of Him?
10. Can you relate to any part of this man's story?

(questions continued on next page)

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(questions continued from previous page)

11. Read Romans 5:6—*When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners (NLT)*. The original Greek word that translates to “helpless” in this verse, is translated in other versions of the Bible and in other passages as meaning “sick” or “weak”. As sick or weak as this verse tells us we were, we could have easily fit in at the pool of Bethesda. Do you think this verse means we were physically or spiritually crippled? Have you ever thought of yourself as being that invisible, “utterly helpless” or “sick” or “weak” before Jesus came and rescued you? Is this easy for you to identify with, or does it make you uncomfortable to think of yourself this way?
12. Do you see the spiritual need in yourself that Romans talks about? Does that help you to understand how we were all invisible at some point—even if we can’t remember feeling that way? How does knowing that Jesus noticed us when we were in need the most, change the times when it feels like you are invisible? Does knowing that affect your self-image, self-confidence, or self-esteem? How?
13. Why do you think it is important to remember that, even though we may not feel like it now, we were once like invisible people? How do you think we learn to live in light of knowing that?

### NEXT STEP

Encourage your students to take some this week thinking about the condition they once were in and how Jesus took notice of them. Have them spend some specific time expressing to God how it feels to be taken note of and cared for—and then thank Him for *seeing* them.

## The Invisibles (1): Can You See Me?

### MIDDLE SCHOOL ADAPTATION

The following activities and illustrations will help middle school students connect with the subject matter in ways that engage them physically, mentally, socially and sometimes emotionally. You can also adapt the “The Invisibles” series for middle school students by using the teaching outline found in this document to edit the teaching script to a 20-minute presentation. In addition, by using the separate middle school small group dialog questions (found in the series downloads) that are geared specifically for sixth to eighth graders, you can make each section more middle-school friendly.

#### SESSION 1 GAME: MOVIE INVISIBLES

*(Play this game as an icebreaker to Session 1.)*

Go to [www.filmwise.com](http://www.filmwise.com). This website contains games based on the question, “Can you guess what movie this is from a screenshot?” You’ll find screen shots from different movies with pieces of the shot missing. The first to answer correctly wins. Play this game each week, picking several screen shots from [www.filmwise.com](http://www.filmwise.com).

When you get to the site, click on the navigation button at the top titled “FilmWise Invisibles.” From there, you can pick different quizzes. You can either play the game directly from the web site by showing it on your TV or screen through your computer, or download the pictures into a PowerPoint/Keynote Presentation. You can break your group up into teams so that they work together to find the answer or choose individual players. If you choose to use individual players, consider making the players race from the back of the room and the run to the front when they know the answer, so that the first person to run to reach the stage gets to answer the question.

#### SESSION 1 ILLUSTRATION: THE INCREDIBLES

*(Use this illustration in place of the INTRODUCTION section of the teaching script.)*

The lesson this week helps us to understand that we often don’t notice the invisible people around us. To illustrate this idea, show a clip from the movie *The Incredibles*. In this clip, Violet, the daughter, wants a boy to notice her but she turns invisible when he looks her way. Start the clip at 15:40 and play until 16:15.

#### SESSION 1 ILLUSTRATION: SESSION VIDEO

*(Use this illustration in place of teaching points “B” through “I” in the TRUTH section of the teaching script.)*

Download the session video for “The Invisibles” from The reThink Store. This video is intended to tell the story of Jesus going to Bethesda instead of the communicator telling the story.