

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Undeclared / Week 2

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Because of Jesus, sin is defeated.

SCRIPTURE

“Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:2 NIV

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To remind students that, because of Jesus, they don't have to be defeated by the sins they struggle with.

THINK ABOUT THIS

In a conversation like this, it will be easy for students to think outwardly rather than look inwardly. When talking about sins, they're going to be tempted to name names or share specific scenarios that *don't* have anything to do with them. Why? Because they may not have the self-awareness to see their own sins clearly, or, if they do, they find it easier to talk generally about others than specifically about themselves. Do your best to speak broadly and steer the conversation away from any names, scenarios, or gossip.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here.

DURING GROUP

ICE BREAKER

What's the worst defeat you've ever witnessed? (For example, in a championship game, an epic fail video, in your favorite movie or TV show, etc.)

DISCUSS THIS

1. What's one example of a sin middle schoolers might struggle with? (*SGL: Write down your students' answers on a notecard and lay them on the ground so everyone can see them.*)
2. Of the ones listed, which do you think the average middle schooler feels bad about struggling with or doing?
3. Which ones do you think they don't think are that big of a deal?
4. What do you do when you feel bad about something you've done?
5. On a scale of 1 to 10, how mad do you think God gets when someone sins?
6. Have you ever felt like God was mad at you when you sin?
7. What do you think made you feel that way?
8. How does knowing Jesus died to beat sin for you make you feel?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE)

Pass out the provided prayer prompt card to each of your students. Instruct your few to use the card when they pray to God this week.

MY PRAYER

- Use this guide as you pray to God throughout the week. -

GOD,

Thank you for who You are.

I'm so glad I can talk to You about anything, including things I'm struggling with.

Thank you for loving me no matter what.

You know everything about me, so I know that You already know what I'm going to say. But I want to talk to You about it because I need Your help.

Lately I've been struggling with _____.

And it makes me feel _____.
I know that because of Jesus, any guilt, shame, embarrassment, or negative feelings I have from the mistakes or choices I've made don't have power over me.

I may have strong feelings about it, and there may be consequences to what I've done, but I'm not going to let it control or define me anymore.

You made me for something bigger and better than to feel guilty or embarrassed.

God, you are bigger and stronger than anything I struggle with or any feelings I have.

Please give me Your strength, power, and courage to defeat _____.

Give me ways that I can find freedom from it.

Help me learn to trust You whenever I feel bad about struggling with this.

Thank you for sending Jesus to defeat sin for me through His death and resurrection. That's what I'm celebrating this Easter.

I love You, God. Make me more like You.

Finish your prayer by reading this Bible verse out loud to yourself.

Read it over and over until you begin to believe it.

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so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."**

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