

# SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Afterlife / Week 3

## BEFORE GROUP

### BOTTOM LINE

Because of the resurrection, Peter knew he was forgiven.

### SCRIPTURE

*John 21:15-17 NIV*

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students change how they react to guilt and experience God's grace in small group through a community where they can be fully known.

### THINK ABOUT THIS

This small group could be a time when students express things they feel guilty for. It is important that your reaction points them toward grace, not shame. React on the inside, and have some statements prepared beforehand, just in case you are caught off guard by what students share.

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

## DURING GROUP

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is something you got in trouble for as a little kid?
2. Share an example of a person from a movie, book, or Bible story where you saw the main character change after doing something wrong.
3. What is your typical reaction when you feel guilty? (Place blame, hide, deny, etc.) Leader note: this is not a time to coach your students or correct what may be unhealthy ways of dealing with guilt. This is a time for them to learn how to identify their own style of dealing with guilt, so don't stay on this question for very long.
4. Read John 18:13-27. After reading this, how do you think Peter felt seeing Jesus face-to-face after the resurrection?
5. Read 1 Peter 4:8. Years after Peter denied Jesus and then was forgiven by Jesus, Peter wrote this letter to his friends. How does knowing Peter's story change the way you read this verse?
6. Knowing how Jesus responded to Peter after his experience with denying Him, what do you think Jesus would say to a high-schooler who has done something wrong? Is it easy or difficult to believe that's what Jesus would say to you?
7. Why do you think it is difficult to keep showing up and keep speaking up when we have done something we know is wrong? What would make it easier?
8. Think about an area of your life where you have felt guilt. Don't say it out loud. Who is one person you could share that with who would encourage you and remind you of God's grace for you? (Leader note: Give students 10-15 seconds to identify this area in their own mind, but do not encourage them to admit guilt in group.)
9. **Don't Miss This:** Do you feel like our small group is a place where you can show up and speak up when you feel guilt? Why or why not? (Perhaps, what is one thing we can do as a group to make our small group a place where we can swap guilt for grace?)
10. What would change if you actually believed that God forgave you for what you did, and you didn't have to carry your guilt?