

FOCUS DEEPEN

LEADER GUIDE // WEEK 3

Series Big Idea

The greatest priority in the life of a Christian should be to develop a deeper relationship with God.

Message Big Idea

Dealing appropriately with sin opens the path to spiritual growth and a deeper relationship with God.

Scripture

2 Samuel 11-12; Psalm 51

Ice Breaker & Opening Thought

Pastor Greg has a t-shirt that he's worn around the church a few times, perhaps you've seen it. Across the front of the shirt are the words "Me Too." He got it at a church out in Denver. "Me Too" is the motto for that church's Life Group ministry. It simply conveys the idea that when we open up and share our life story with others, inevitably we'll come to the conclusion that we're not alone, that we all share many of the same struggles and that we can encourage each other in life. Hence, "Me Too." Remember to make time to hear one another's story and to get to know the people who are in your life group. Perhaps have every person share one of the following: a) a time where they made a right choice and as a result, experienced something good for doing so. Or, b) a time when they made a wrong choice and suffered the consequences for doing so.

Bible Discussion

One of the points made in the message this weekend stressed the matter of David's sin resulting in a breakdown of his relationship with God. For nearly 9 months, David seemed to "forget" about the havoc he caused. There were multiple people who David sinned against; take some time and name a few of those who were affected by his sin. It is important that you note and point out some of the following: the sins that David was guilty of include: murder, perjury, lying, adultery and others. Secondly, our sin affects others, specifically those whom we love the most. And third, our choices have a ripple effect on those around us, and sometimes affecting our children for years. It is also worth noting that you have the freedom to make your choices, but you cannot choose the consequences of those choices. David is known as a "man after God's heart" (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22). Yet, David seemed to have moved on in regards to dealing with his transgressions. After being confronted by Nathan, David came to the realization that he had sinned against God (Psalm 51:4). Note as well that all sin comes back to a sin against God.

Life Application

In Alcoholics Anonymous, and in Weight Watchers, there's this element of having a sponsor, a friend, a teammate who will keep you encouraged and hold you accountable to make good choices and to stick to the program. Proverbs 27:17 & James 5:16, stress the importance of having a "Nathan" in your life. Why do you think this is critical to overcoming sin? Do you have a Nathan in your life? Who? Are you accountable to anyone for specific issues?

Challenge

All of us sin, intentionally and unintentionally, and those sins create distance between us and God. Commit to do two things starting today: First, seek God's grace to end a bad habit/sin. Secondly, begin to incorporate true confession into a daily prayer time.

***Special note:** Life Groups often meet bi-weekly. If this is your group's case, get creative in still making sure each person still does the FOCUS study outside of Life Group on your off week. For example: If you don't meet as a Life Group until next week, do the study with a friend, spouse, or family member this week.