



LEADER GUIDE

DON'T BE DIFFERENT ALONE

03.11-15.2019

ACCEPTANCE

THE POINT

Jesus took care of our sin so we can carry out our purpose.

LEADER NOTES

Shame is often our biggest obstacle in pursuing our purpose. Tonight, we're learning about how Jesus takes that shame so we can live out our calling.

GROUP CHALLENGE

Who do you talk to when you feel shame? Find a friend that will help you have a Godly perspective on sin and shame and ask them to help you overcome it.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 15:16–24 NIV

(read after video with group)

1 Timothy 4:12 NIV

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

Matthew 22:36–40 NIV

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law? Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments"

GROUP QUESTIONS

CHOOSE THE BEST ONES FOR YOUR GROUP

GET GOING: ICEBREAKERS/ACTIVITIES/HANG OUT TIME

- How was your week?
- What stood out to you from the teaching?
- Debate question: Is shame the same as guilt, embarrassment, or humiliation?
(**Answer:** *They are not the same. Shame is a million times worse than all the others.*)
 - **Guilt:** "I did something bad." It's behavior that can be changed. Guilt is good when it causes us to change our actions, repent from sin, and turn to God.
 - **Embarrassment:** "I'm on the spot, but others can relate." It's an awkward, temporary feeling everyone experiences sometimes.
 - **Humiliation:** "I don't deserve that treatment." It's feeling undervalued by others.
 - **Shame:** "I am bad." This is an internal self-worth issue. It's a lie from the enemy to keep us from God's forgiveness. We must overcome shame to get to our purpose.

GET TALKING: DISCUSSION/CONVERSATION

- What does the cross mean to you?
- Have you ever experienced shame? What does shame feel like?
- Do you feel like you've discovered your life's purpose? What is it? What does it take to discover it? (**Leaders:** *If your students don't know, ask them what they love to do, what they're good at, etc. Also, be sure to tell them it's OK to not know yet, but God calls all of us to love others, serve others, forgive others, etc. That's also our purpose.*)
- How does shame affect your motivation to pursue your purpose?
- What are some distractions that keep you from pursuing your purpose?

GET SPIRITUAL: BIBLE VERSES/SPIRITUAL APPLICATIONS

- Read **1 Timothy 4:12 NIV**. Has anyone ever looked down on you because you are young? How did that make you feel? Why do you think it doesn't matter that you're young?
- Elijah said: "Where you are is where God can use you." What does that mean to you? What are some ways you think God can use you right now?
- Read **Matthew 22:36-40 NIV**. What does this verse mean to you? Is it easy or hard to 'love your neighbor as yourself'? Why?

GET PRACTICAL: ACTION STEPS

(Leaders: Get your students' contact info so that you can follow up with them this week.)

- Elijah encouraged us not to procrastinate purpose. What are some ways you will get practical about living out your purpose now?
- If shame is the number one reason people don't move forward in life, identify the areas of your life where shame is holding you back. Find Scripture to speak truth over those areas.

GET PRAYING

- Pray specifically for students to experience freedom from shame.
- Pray that students begin to discover their purpose and find the courage to live it out.
- Pray for anything else students might need prayer for.
- Either have a leader pray, a student pray, or students pray for each other.