



# Grow Group Guide | Week 1

## Bible Discussion (45-60 minutes)

Spring is often a time of refreshment and renewal. Trees and flowers are coming back to life, and in our homes we often take time to dust off and clean out things that have been stored away or are lingering around—we evaluate the things that have accumulated in our homes, and what we need to keep or move on from. As we start our spring Grow Group session, and conclude our study in the book of Joshua, Joshua’s call to the Israelites to “throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped” resonates with the season. What idols do we need to confront and cast out of our lives? What things have we been clinging to that we need to clear out so that they will not get in the way of serving and fellowshiping with God? What concrete steps do we need to take to truly live the victorious Christian life?

*Remember: your goal is good discussion, not just to get through all the questions. Choose the best, leave the rest.*

### **Read: Joshua 24:14-15**

1. What does Joshua mean when he says “fear the Lord”?
2. What are some things that even many of us Christians do that reflect a lack of fear of the Lord? (*spend some time on this one*)
3. How does a lack of fear for the Lord hinder our ability to “love the Lord” (as Jesus commands us in Matthew 22:37)?
4. Verse 14 says “Get rid of the gods your ancestors worshipped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt.” How does this command still relate/apply to us?
5. Pastor Ted preached Sunday that one of the ways to ensure we always fear the Lord is to never lose our awe and wonder of God. How can we hold on to the awe and wonder we should have? If we’ve lost it, how can we return to it?
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## SEE NEXT PAGE

### NEXT STEP ACTIVITY:

Provide everyone in your group with a blank index card and writing utensil (*Explain in advance that the cards will not be exchanged or pass around, and that they will be **destroyed** at the end of the reflection time*).

On Sunday Pastor Ted discussed how “an idol is anything we love more, fear more, serve more, or trust more than almighty God.”

Ask the members of your group to consider *specific* idols they need to cast out of their lives TODAY. What things fall under these categories that we need to confront and clear out of our lives? Instruct them to write anything they can think of on their index card. **Allow members to spread out**, and give them a few minutes for them to write things down and pray quietly. (Playing some quiet worship music here can help break any uncomfortable silence and steer members minds toward God).

After a few minutes, bring the group back together. Destroy these “idols” together as a group, but **remind the group that all they have really done is destroy a paper. It is up to them to follow through and pursue God’s command to actually destroy their idols.** Encourage the group to use prayer time to follow up this activity.

**NOTE: Leaders, you will need to prepare and bring something to physically destroy the index cards. This will need to be something beyond ripping up, crumpling up, and throwing them away. The members need to see the idols they wrote destroyed for: 1-the sake of the object lesson; 2-protecting their privacy and ensuring what they wrote remains completely private. CONSIDER USING A PORTABLE PAPER SHREDDER!**

**Other Scriptures from this Sunday:** Psalm 25:14; Psalm 31:19; Psalm 33:18; Psalm 115:13; Psalm 147:11; Mark 4:37-41

### Prayer (15-20 Minutes)

Use your wisdom to lead a prayer time in a way that allows for growth opportunity. Don’t be afraid to try splitting into smaller groups, separate men/women, or prayer partners.

1. Pray for our Grow Groups, that they would help build strong community within our church, and that they would foster continued spiritual growth.
2. Pray that the lives of each person in our group will reflect the reverence, resolve, repentance, and reliance that comes from the victory Christ has won for us.
3. Pray that we would have, and never lose, the awe, wonder, and reverence for our God.



# Grow Group Guide | Week 2

## Bible Discussion (45-60 minutes)

As we celebrate the events surrounding Easter, let's look at a prominent figure in the Scriptures related to the Holy Week: Simon Peter. As one of the twelve disciples, he is first encountered when Jesus called him to leave his nets and to instead follow Him and "fish for men." And most of us probably are quick to recall the events surrounding Peter's repeated denial of Christ, despite telling Christ that he would never do such a thing. Throughout the scriptures, we find that Peter responds to Jesus in many ways, almost like different versions of himself. Today we are challenged to think about what "versions of Peter" we are. How do Peter's responses to Christ relate to us? How can Peter's responses to Jesus be examples, good and bad, for our own walk with Christ?

...when Peter was **Skeptical** - read **Luke 5:4-9**

...when Peter was **Faithful** - read **Matthew 14:22-29**

...when Peter was **Faithless** - read **Matthew 14:30-31**

...when Peter **Proclaimed Christ** - read **Matthew 16:13-16**

...when Peter was **Nearsighted** - read **Matthew 16:21-23**

...when Peter was **Proud** - read **Matthew 26:31-39**

...when Peter **Denied Christ** - read **Mark 14:66-72**

...when Peter was **Restored** - read **John 21:15-17**

1. At one point or another, our lives have reflected all of these "versions of Peter." Did any of these stand out to you personally, or make you recall a particular moment in your life?
2. Not every denial of Christ is a loud "I never knew Him!" What other forms of denying Christ have we witnessed or been guilty of? (*this question is designed to help us recognize ways we may be denying Christ without realizing it*)
3. In John 21:17, when Jesus asked Peter a third time "do you love me?", Peter was hurt. Why do you think Peter was hurt by this, and why would Jesus ask something He knew would hurt Peter? (*see resource in leader email*)
4. If you have ever experienced restoration in Christ (aka, God "bringing you back"), when in your life did that happen? How did you know you were restored in Christ? (*leaders be prepared to answer this question first*)

### **Peter the Evangelist. Read: Acts 2:37-41**

5. Do we feel comfortable speaking the truth the way Peter does here? If we don't, what prevents us from boldly speaking the truth?
6. Sharing the Gospel will always require courage. How can we train ourselves to act with courage when God presents us with sharing opportunities?

## Action

This Easter Sunday, many of the unchurched people in our lives will be more willing to attend our Worship Service than perhaps any other Sunday of the year. While we would love for all the unchurched people we know to be in *a church* on Easter, let's make it our goal for them to be in *our church*.

**Encourage the members of your group to each commit to inviting THREE unchurched people to our Sunday Easter service.** Consider these statistics:

"Eighty-two percent of the unchurched are at least somewhat likely to attend church if invited...Only two percent of church members invite an unchurched person to church. Ninety-eight percent of church-goers never extend an invitation in a given year." –Dr Thom Rainer, *The Unchurched Next Door*

These are merely statistics, but you do the math: according to these numbers, how many of our unchurched friends would be "somewhat likely to attend" if everyone in the group personally invited three people?

Inviting people to church might just be the simplest way we can point someone to Christ this week. Let's bring our unchurched friends into the community of Christian brothers and sisters that have helped shape our lives into what they are now.

Make it tangible! Encourage members to write three names on a piece of paper or in their phones. Remind them that in the moment, the invitation will require courage, but God has already given them all the strength they will need.

## Prayer (15-20 Minutes)

Use your wisdom to lead a prayer time in a way that allows for growth opportunity. Don't be afraid to try splitting into smaller groups, separate men/women, or prayer partners.

1. Pray that we will be prepared to share the Gospel when God presents us with opportunities.
2. Pray that those we invite to church this week will come, and that they would be changed and want to make this church their home.



# Grow Group Guide | Week 3

## Bible Discussion (45-60 minutes)

This past Sunday we celebrated Easter—the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, a resurrection that changed everything. Our Savior died for the sins of the world, and three days later was raised back to life. In an eternal act of mercy, Jesus bore our grief, carried our sorrow, and took all the punishment for our sins on that cross. This underserved kindness, this unearned forgiveness, this mercy was poured out...for us! We need this mercy every second of our lives, but do we understand it? Do we take it for granted? As our church enters into a new sermon series, we'll be looking at areas of our lives where God has shown and continues to show us mercy. This week, our focus will be on the mercy we can receive from God when we mess up.

*(Remember: your goal is good discussion, not just to get through all the questions. Choose the best, leave the rest)*

### Read: John 8:1-11

1. Read Deuteronomy 22:22-24 (this is the law that the Pharisees are referring to). What does this information add to the story of the woman caught in adultery?
2. Is the woman the only person who receives mercy in this passage?
3. What might have Jesus been writing in the sand? Why didn't John (the author) just tell us?  
*(PT elaborated on this, but let's explore a little more)*
4. Jesus treats the woman caught in adultery with love and dignity. How can this passage be misinterpreted or abused?
5. When has God been merciful toward you?
6. Why/when is it challenging to show mercy to people/those around us?
7. What can you learn from Jesus about helping someone who has fallen?
8. \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Scriptures from this Sunday:** Matthew 28:1-10; Luke 1:78; Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8; Ecclesiastes 7:20; James 3:2; Isaiah 61:1; John 12:47-48; James 2:13; Psalm 86:5; Hebrews 4:15-16

## Prayer (15-20 Minutes)

Use your wisdom to lead a prayer time in a way that allows for growth opportunity. Don't be afraid to try splitting into smaller groups, separate men/women, or prayer partners.

1. Pray that we would allow God's mercy to shape our lives and the way we treat others around us.
2. Pray that many of the families that visited on Easter would return this Sunday and choose to make the community of Somerset Hills Baptist Church their home.





# Grow Group Guide | Week 4

## Bible Discussion (45-60 minutes)

This past Sunday, Pastor Ted continued his series on God's mercy, in particular, God's mercy when we're angry. He used the story of the invalid man, who waited nearly four decades in vain for a mythical pool to heal him. Despite his lack of faith, Jesus heals the man, who immediately gets up and walks away. In our groups this week, we'll be paying close attention to the man's behavior before, during, and after Jesus heals him. When God gives us blessings, do we recognize them? Do we celebrate them? Or sometimes, do we let other things get in the way?

*(Remember: your goal is good discussion, not just to get through all the questions. Choose the best, leave the rest)*

### Read: John 5:2-15

1. What did Jesus ask the man?
  - a. Was this a silly question?
  - b. What was Jesus' purpose in asking this specific question?
  - c. What do we learn about the man from his response to Jesus?
2. What three commands does Jesus give the man as He heals him?
  - a. Does the man have a choice in his healing?
3. Do you think the man really wanted to be healed?
  - a. If the man DID want to be healed, how would his healing affect his life? What kind of changes would he have to make as a result of being healed?
  - b. Do you know people who do not want to be healed or make difficult changes in their life? Why don't they want to make these changes?
4. Re-read verses 10-15 ... What stands out to you about the man's behavior? How does his response to the Pharisees differ from his response to Jesus?
5. Why is it tempting to blame others for our problems? What does this accomplish? Who do we blame?
6. What prevented the man from appreciating the blessing Jesus had given him? Are there any blessings in your life that you're missing out on because you're hung up on the details?
7. Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 and Isaiah 40:28-31. What does God tell us that we should do with our struggles?
8. \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Consider opening Prayer Time with this question:**

If someone could read your mind—discover what you worry about, what makes you angry, what you really want most from life, etc.—what would they say your “front burner issue” is?

What does God want us to do with this “front burner issue”?

**Other Scriptures from this Sunday:** Philippians 4:13; Luke 18:27; 2 Peter 1:3a; Mark 9:23

## Prayer (15-20 Minutes)

Use your wisdom to lead a prayer time in a way that allows for growth opportunity. Don't be afraid to try splitting into smaller groups, separate men/women, or prayer partners.

1. Pray specifically for one another's “front burner issues.”
2. Pray that we would take responsibility for our shortcomings and struggles, and seek after God's mercy to give us what we need.



# Grow Group Guide | Week 5

## Bible Discussion (45-60 minutes)

This past Sunday, Pastor Ted preached on *Mercy When We Need It Most*. In Grow Groups this week, we'll look at the criminal hanging on his own cross next to Jesus, and the mercy he received in his final moments. While God accepts those who call on Him even at the last minute, we certainly shouldn't put off till tomorrow what He is calling us to do today. Challenge your group to ask themselves: are we giving God our full obedience? Or are there things He is calling us to do that we are simply putting off?

### Read: Luke 23:35-42

1. Why do you think the first criminal joins in the mocking of Jesus? Have you ever found yourself joining the "crowd", only to regret it later? Share your experience.
  2. The rulers, soldiers, and criminals all mocked Jesus based on the irony of a "savior" who couldn't even save Himself. What are the differences between the salvation they wanted and the salvation Jesus was offering?
  3. What do you feel when someone mocks Jesus today? Are you ever tempted to come to His rescue?
  4. Even when facing death, the first thief didn't want to put his faith in Jesus. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-19:
    - a. Why is the cross foolishness to those who don't believe?
    - b. Was there ever a time you thought the cross was foolishness? What changed your mind?
  5. Both criminals wanted Jesus to save them, but expressed it differently. How did each express their desire to be saved?
  6. Read Matthew 27:44 and Mark 15:32. What does this add to Luke's account? What can we learn from these additional details?
  7. The second criminal asked for mercy, and received it. What prompted a criminal (who had just been mocking Jesus) to suddenly change his heart/mind and call on Jesus to remember him?
    - a. Why was one criminal prompted and not the other?
    - b. Read Acts 2:21. Was the mercy given by Jesus unique to this criminal, or can we all receive this mercy? Why is this important?
  8. How could you use the story of the two thieves on the cross to help someone understand the Gospel message?
  9. **Expansion Question:** Read Jesus' statement in verse 43. What all can we conclude from these few words?
  10. \_\_\_\_\_
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**Short activity to lead into prayer time:**

On an index card, write down one thing you've been putting off—something in life that you need to get done before it's too late. This doesn't have to be spiritual; it can be anything (i.e., a chore, task, bill, phone call, conversation).

As we discussed today, in the case of the thief, he waited till the very last minute for salvation. Perhaps we haven't waited till the last minute for salvation, but perhaps we're waiting or putting off being totally obedient to God.

Now, write down on your index card something God has put on your heart—something that God wants you to do—that you've been putting off.

*Encourage your group to use their cards in prayer time, so that the group can pray for and encourage its members to seek after what God is calling them to do this week.*

**Other Scriptures from this Sunday:** Luke 23:43; John 11:25; Isaiah 30:18

## Prayer (15-20 Minutes)

Use your wisdom to lead a prayer time in a way that allows for growth opportunity. Don't be afraid to try splitting into smaller groups, separate men/women, or prayer partners.

1. Pray for one another, that we would be fully obedient to God in what he is calling us to do this week.
2. Pray that we would humble ourselves and submit to our Savior in every aspect of our lives.
3. Pray for one another, that we would each have a posture of repentance and faith, and not let our pride interfere with God's will for each of us and His mercy toward us.



# Grow Group Guide | Week 6

## Bible Discussion (45-60 minutes)

In recent weeks, we've been discussing God's mercy in various contexts. This week, we'll continue the conversation and focus on perhaps one of the more difficult aspects of mercy: showing it to those we are the closest to.

### Discussion:

Before discussing, read the following scriptures as a group in a way that encourages good self-reflection for group members (*note: verses are included at the end if you'd like to print them out and distribute them to your group*):

**Psalm 101:2**  
**Proverbs 17:9**  
**Proverbs 19:11**  
**1 Thessalonians 5:15**  
**Proverbs 3:27**  
**Psalm 28:2**  
**1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

1. Which of these real forms of love and mercy stands out to you? Why?
  - a. Which of these are you lacking?
  - b. Which do you think you do well in?
  - c. Are these forms of love only applicable to certain relationships?
2. Is mercy a feeling and emotion, or a behavior and choice? Why does this matter?
3. When you read these verses, what do you find yourself thinking about: How other people have been treating you? How you've been treating other people? How other people have been treating other people?
4. Why is it hard to see the best in those who continually mess up or make mistakes?
  - a. Is it more difficult to see the best in those with whom we are closer to? (for example, family)
  - b. What barriers do you face when it comes to forgiving the mistakes or shortcomings of those close to you?
5. Why is it easy to criticize people's mistakes and flaws?
  - a. What practical things can we do to build up the people closest to us and bring out the best in them?
  - b. Share an experience or time where someone looked past your mistakes or flaws ... how did you feel?
6. How does your relationship with Jesus help you to be kind to someone who isn't kind to you?



- a. What advice would you give to someone who is struggling to be patient and kind to an unlovable person?
7. Some people are hard to work with or difficult to be around; perhaps they're irresponsible, immature, demanding, self-centered, aggressive, rude, manipulative. Maybe disappointing, disloyal, or not dependable. We sometimes refer to these people as EGR ... Extra Grace Required. Does anyone come to mind (NO NAMES):
  - a. What do you currently do to deal with this person?
  - b. Do you avoid them? Chastise them?
  - c. Based on our scriptures tonight, how is God telling you to handle this person this week?
8. What kind of anger is 1 Corinthians 13:5 talking about?
  - a. How can we display love when we're angry?
9. Have you ever left an encounter with someone wishing you had shown more mercy than you did? Why did you feel this way?
10. How should the love and mercy described in these verses play out in our relationships and interactions with people at church?

### **Read Lamentations 3:20-23**

11. What is the source of our hope that is described in these verses?
12. What if nothing about our circumstances or the difficult people in our lives ever changes? How does God still call us to act? What does God tell us we should do?
13. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **Prayer (15-20 Minutes)**

Use your wisdom to lead a prayer time in a way that allows for growth opportunity. Don't be afraid to try splitting into smaller groups, separate men/women, or prayer partners.

1. Pray that we would grow in the depth and quantity of real mercy and love we show to those we are close to.
2. Pray for one another and the specific areas/relationships where we struggle to show love and mercy.
3. Pray that we would embody this real mercy and love not only in our relationships with friends and family, but also with our church family.

**Psalm 101:2**

I will be careful to live a blameless life—  
when will you come to help me?  
I will lead a life of integrity  
in my own home.

**Proverbs 17:9**

Love prospers when a fault is forgiven,  
but dwelling on it separates close friends.

**Proverbs 19:11**

Sensible people control their temper;  
they earn respect by overlooking wrongs.

**1 Thessalonians 5:15**

See that no one pays back evil for evil, but always try to do good to each other and to all people.

**Proverbs 3:27**

Do not withhold good from those who deserve it  
when it's in your power to help them.

**Psalm 28:2**

Listen to my prayer for mercy  
as I cry out to you for help,  
as I lift my hands toward your holy sanctuary.

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud 5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. 6 It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. 8 Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever!

**Lamentations 3:20-23**

20 I will never forget this awful time,  
as I grieve over my loss.  
21 Yet I still dare to hope  
when I remember this:  
22 The faithful love of the Lord never ends!  
His mercies never cease.  
23 Great is his faithfulness;  
his mercies begin afresh each morning.

Are you a very loving person, just so full of love?? To set the stage for the discussion, here's a little quiz to get us thinking:

1. When your spouse, sibling, or another family member gets some detail wrong while telling a story, do you...
  - a. Interrupt them and correct them publicly
  - b. Say nothing and let it go, knowing you've done the same
2. When your spouse, sibling, or another family member keeps making the same mistake over and over and over, do you ...
  - a. Become irritated and angry at them?
  - b. Graciously forgive them and pray for them?
3. When your spouse, sibling, or another family member is getting more attention than you think they deserve, do you ...
  - a. Feel resentful and feel the need to bring them down a notch?
  - b. Celebrate with them?
4. When your spouse, sibling, or another family member says or does something that you don't understand, do you ...
  - a. Question their motivation and think the worst?
  - b. Assume they have the best motivation for doing it?
5. Who are you more polite with?
  - a. Strangers
  - b. Your own family

Scoring: a= +1 point, b= +2 points

5-8 pts = you are a sinner saved by grace, and need to be as merciful as you are honest. We'll add you to our prayer list.

8-10 pts= are you being completely honest with yourself? You may need to check your heart and answer the questions again. We'll add you to our prayer list.



# Grow Group Guide | Week 8

## Bible Discussion (45-60 minutes)

This past Sunday, Pastor Darrell preached on Paul's prayer for the Ephesians, and how this prayer is alive today as much as it was then. There is much to be learned from this prayer; it is a reminder of God's power, and a reminder that fullness of life comes from that power. It's a vision for each of us for what it means to be deeply rooted in Christ. It's a challenge for us to go to God in prayer for everything, big and small. What is your Group taking from Paul's prayer this week?

### Read: Ephesians 3:14-21

1. Paul prayed this prayer specifically because he had a vision for the Church at Ephesus, but his prayer applies to us too. What about his prayer stands out to you in regards to your own life?
2. What does it mean to be empowered with inner strength (v.16)?
3. What does this passage say we have to do to get Christ to make His home in our hearts?
  - What does this "faith" or "trust" look like in our day-to-day lives?
4. In verse 17, Paul refers to our "hearts." This is a word used often in church, but what does it mean? What is your heart? What controls your heart?
5. How can we determine if we are rooted and established in love (v. 17)?
  - What does it look like for a Christian to be rooted and established in love?
6. What does it mean to be "filled to the measure of all the fullness of God" (v. 19)? How can we achieve this?
7. Reread verse 20. What does this tell us about our prayer life?
  - When we think about God being able to "do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine," does this mean He *will* do all the things we ask? Why/why not?
8. Is there a right and a wrong way to come to God in prayer?
9. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Other scriptures:** 1 John 5:14-15; John 14:13-14; Philippians 4:6-7

## Prayer (15-20 Minutes)

Use your wisdom to lead a prayer time in a way that allows for growth opportunity. Don't be afraid to try splitting into smaller groups, separate men/women, or prayer partners.

1. Pray that each person in the group would be actively communicating with God through prayer.
2. Pray that we would be bold in our prayers, and rest confident in the promises of God.
3. Pray specifically for the anxieties, worries, and burdens of those in your group, and that they would give them up to God.



# Grow Group Guide | Week 9

## Bible Discussion (45-60 minutes)

Many of the people who attend our church (and most of the people in your group) are blessed because they have the “Light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ.” To us, this news is everything, but not everyone has what we have; some are blinded to it, others haven’t found it...

What does God call us to do with this “Light of knowledge” he has given us?

### Read: 2 Corinthians 4:1-10

1. See v. 1: In your own words, what is the “ministry” (check translation) that God has given us?
2. See v. 2: What ways can people be deceitful with or distort the word of God?
3. See v. 3: What is the veil? Why does this matter?
4. According to v. 3 & 4, why should we not be discouraged by those who are resistant or unwilling to recognize the power and authority of the Gospel?
5. In v. 5, who does the “your” refer to when Paul says “we are your servants for Jesus’ sake”?
  - a. What would you tell a non-believer if they asked you, “what does it mean to be a servant for Jesus’ sake?”
6. What does verse 6 reflect about who we were before we accepted Christ? According to this verse, how is a Christian set apart?
7. Why did Paul use the metaphor of “jars of clay” in v.7?
  - a. What are some of the things Paul could have been referencing when he mentioned “jars of clay”?
8. Why (or why not) do vs. 8-10 give you hope? Is it reassuring (or is it scary) to be reminded that persecution is something to be expected as a Christian?
  - a. What about these verses speaks to you this week?
9. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Other scriptures:** Romans 8:15; 2 Corinthians 12:8-10; 2 Corinthians 11:23-30;

## Prayer (15-20 Minutes)

Use your wisdom to lead a prayer time in a way that allows for growth opportunity. Don’t be afraid to try splitting into smaller groups, separate men/women, or prayer partners.

1. Pray that our lives would reflect the light and glory of God, and our dependence on Him.
2. Pray that we would be prepared for persecution, and even be encouraged by the way our suffering reflects Christ in us.





# Grow Group Guide | Week 10

## Bible Discussion (45-60 minutes)

As Pastor Ted said Sunday, "Under the right circumstances, we are all capable of any sin." Jesus' disciple Peter, one of the greatest ministers and leaders of the Early Church, found himself under circumstances where he was not willing, nor prepared, to defend his relationship with Christ. As modern day Christians, we are often faced with similar situations where we must weigh the world's opinions of us vs. God's opinion of us. What can we learn from Peter to prepare ourselves to live more shameless lives for Christ?

### **Read: Matthew 26:31-35, 57-58, 69-70**

1. Just for a moment, imagine that instead of Peter, the name used in these scriptures was *your* name. How does this new story make you feel?
2. While busy trying to convince Jesus that he would never disown Him, Peter seems to miss out on something important that Jesus says.
  - a. What does he miss out on? (see v. 32)
  - b. What kept Peter from seeing the "big picture"?
3. Is there a danger in declaring (or even thinking) that we would *never* sin or stumble in a particular way? (e.g., "*I would never steal from my job,*" or "*I would never have an affair*")
4. When challenged by the servant girl, why was Peter's first response to lie?
  - a. Why wasn't he prepared to answer the question truthfully?
5. Why do we often value the opinions of others more than the "opinion" of God?
  - a. What reminders, or promises, has God given us to help us value His view of us more than the world's? (there are many, but here's some places to start: John 15:18-25, Luke 12:4-6)
  - b. When do you draw the line when it comes to following Christ over friends, family, or the world?
6. Re-read verse 58. What in our lives might indicate we are following Jesus at a distance?
  - a. Are we proactive with our faith or do we just sit back and wait for "things" to happen as Peter did?
  - b. What could he have done differently other than just seeing how things played out?
7. How can this Grow Group help each other follow Christ without fear of the world's opinions of us?

### **Read: Matthew 26:71-75**

8. Even though the servant girls and the people with them *knew* Peter was with Jesus, he kept lying. Assuming they know he is lying, what does Peter's behavior tell the people watching on?
9. When Peter realized his failure, what was his response?
  - a. When we realize we've failed, how should we respond?
  - b. What does true repentance look like?

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**Somerset Hills**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

10. While guilt, or conviction, are part of our repentance process, Satan will try to use our guilt to attack our trust in Christ. How do we know when the guilt we feel is no longer healthy conviction, but part of the devil's schemes?

11. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Other scriptures:** 1 Corinthians 10:12; Lamentations 3:40; Proverbs 29:25; James 3:5-6; Psalm 51

## Prayer (15-20 Minutes)

Use your wisdom to lead a prayer time in a way that allows for growth opportunity. Don't be afraid to try splitting into smaller groups, separate men/women, or prayer partners.

1. Pray that God would allow the group to embolden each other to live their lives without fearing how the world views them, so that they may serve Him better.
2. Pray the group would know when to repent in the face of guilt, and when to not be owned by unhealthy guilt.