



Peter's Adversity | 10-23-24

LARGE GROUP INTRO

We'll start the night off with a game. A student from each grade/gender will be selected. They will have a helmet and bag of chips attached to their head. Using a pool noodle, they'll need to hit the other teams' chip bags until they pop. The last one standing wins! Then we'll transition with a quick silly video animation of Jesus talking to Peter after he cut off the man's ear.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Taking matters into OUR own hands

1. Share about a time you tried doing something on your own or without help.
2. Have a student, who was here on Sunday, recap the out-of-pocket story we looked at (Peter cutting off a man's ear). If no one from your group was there on Sunday or doesn't remember, read John 18:4-12 together.
3. In John 18:11 Jesus says to Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"
 - a. Why would he tell him to put his sword away? What do you think he means by "drinking the cup the Father has given him?"
4. Peter wanted to control the situation. He wanted to defend Jesus from being arrested and put to death, but he did so in the wrong way. Jesus knew that God's plan was for him to be arrested and put to death on the cross, but Peter couldn't accept that truth.
 - a. If you were Peter, how would you have reacted to Jesus being arrested?

Our number one goal tonight is to challenge students not to be uncomfortable about their faith but to **be ready to reveal more about their relationship with God** to those around them.

Faith over fear

1. It only takes THREE verses later (starting in John 18:15) for Peter to pull a complete 180. He goes from a guy who is willing to cut ears off for Jesus to a man that denies knowing him at all. Peter is asked by the servant of a high priest (whose people just arrested Jesus) if he is a disciple of Jesus. Peter replies, "I am not."
 - a. Why do you think Peter denied knowing Jesus? What if he had said yes?
 - b. If you were Peter, what would you have said? Why?
2. Sometimes, acknowledging our relationship with Jesus can feel dangerous. For Peter, admitting that he was a Jesus follower meant that he would also be arrested and more than likely killed. For us, opening up about what is going on in our relationship with God will cause others to judge us or mock us. Looking different than others feel dangerous or scary.
 - a. Why do you think we are often hesitant to share with others what God is doing in our lives?
 - b. When is it easiest for you to share? When is it most difficult?

JOHN 18:4-12

⁴ Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?" ⁵ "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) ⁶ When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷ Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?" "Jesus of Nazareth," they said. ⁸ Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go." ⁹ This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me." ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) ¹¹ Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?" ¹² Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus.

To wrap up, go around the circle and ask each person to step out of their comfort zone. Ask if they'd be willing to share either one thing that's been challenging about their relationship with Jesus lately or something that's been exciting about their relationship with Jesus lately.

HIGH/LOW/GOD THING (15 minutes – potentially split into shepherding groups for this)

Have each student go around and identify a highlight of their week, a low point from their week and where they have seen God show up in their week. This time is to help them see God around them, to celebrate when something goes well and for them to be supported when they have had a rough week. If you're short on time, let them choose one of those three to share.

PRAY

Have a student pray for your group, specifically praying that your group would have the boldness open up to people about their relationship with Jesus. Have them pray for faith over fear in all circumstances.