

ROMANS 5:1-2

ACCESS

BIBLE STUDY
LEADER'S GUIDE



LIFE GROUP LEADERS!

Welcome to the Student Life Camp Life Group Leader's Guide! Our hope is that this Leader's Guide will equip you to effectively walk your Life Group through each day's Bible Study. The next few paragraphs will give you some handles for what to expect in each day's lesson.

First...THANK YOU! Someone found you trustworthy to lead students in studying the Bible, but you still had to be willing to leave your comfort at home to come pour into students at camp!

DAILY OVERVIEW

The first page of each day's Bible Study has an overview with the big idea that we will be studying. It also has a Main Point with the central truth we want students knowing, along with an applicational thought. This page should help frame where the Bible Study will take you.

PICTURES OF STUDENT'S BIBLE STUDY

In the bottom right-hand corner of each page, you will find a picture of the corresponding page in each student's Camp Booklet. Our hope is that these images will make it easy for you to lead discussion, while knowing what your students are seeing as they follow along in their booklet.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Bible Study largely relies on discussion. Instead of having students sit and listen to you read pages of content, our hope is that discussion will keep students engaged and lead them to consider the truths of Scripture and how they relate to their lives. With each question, we have provided a suggested answer in parenthesis in your guide. These are not necessarily the only correct answer, but are meant to help you get to the key thoughts of that question.

You may be terrified with the thought of awkward silences or avoided eye contact, but don't panic! If your students go quiet, give them a few minutes to answer a section of questions individually and then ask them to share what they wrote. We think your students will open up!

Finally...We're Praying for You! Know that we have been praying for this summer for many months and that we are continuing to pray for you as you lead this week. God is faithful and sufficient and His Word does not return void.



LESSON: WHEN WE FALL

MAIN POINT: WE WILL STRUGGLE AND FALL INTO SIN, BUT ACCESS TO GOD LEADS US TO A LIFE OF REPENTING AND CONTINUALLY LOOKING TO JESUS FOR GRACE AND FORGIVENESS.

OVERVIEW

Access doesn't mean we now live a life of perfection. Even though we stumble and fall, in His mercy, God draws us back to Him. He is a gracious God who wants a personal, deep, and full relationship with each of us.

MAIN POINT

We will struggle and fall into sin, but access to God leads us to a life of repenting and continually looking to Jesus for grace and forgiveness.

LIVE IT OUT

We strive to keep our lives fixed on Jesus and live without sin. But when we fall, we repent, turning away from our sin and back to Jesus.

FOCUS VERSE: MATTHEW 14:31-33

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand, caught hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those in the boat worshiped him and said, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Keep pouring into students faithfully! The Lord is working in your group's lives, even the students who seem like they don't care.



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ENGAGE

ICE BREAKER: FAMOUS FAILS

Say: **Welcome to Day 3 of our camp Bible study! We're going to start by playing a game called Famous Fails.**

DIRECTIONS

Form two teams or allow the students to compete individually.

After reading each question, give students 20-30 seconds to make a guess. Have them share their answers with each other and then reveal the answer. If a team gets the right answer, they get a point. The team with the most points at the end wins the bragging rights for today's Ice Breaker.

Question 1: **What famous building, constructed in the 12th century, was built on weak, unstable soil causing it to tilt?** Answer: Leaning Tower of Pisa

Question 2: **Which movie was wrongly announced as the Oscars Best Picture winner in 2017?** Answer: La La Land

Question 3: **The captain of what famous ship claimed his ship was "unsinkable", not long before it sank to the bottom of the ocean?**
Answer: Titanic

Question 4: **Which famous franchise movie was a box-office flop and cost Disney roughly \$50 million in 2018?** Answer: Solo: A Star Wars Story

Question 5: **Which football team blew a 28-3 lead late in the Super Bowl to the New England Patriots?** Answer: Atlanta Falcons

Question 6: **Which famous toy started out as a shock-absorbing part for battleships? When the object didn't work, the engineer decided to try making it into a toy.** Answer: The Slinky

Question 7: **Which famous book series did 12 publishers initially reject, only to go on to become the best-selling series of all time?**
Answer: Harry Potter

BIBLE STUDY

ENGAGE

ICE BREAKER: FAMOUS FAILS

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Say: **How many of the questions did you guess correctly?**

Each of these questions highlighted moments from people who could be considered professionals in their field, yet they still failed. Sometimes failing miserably. We've all been there. Maybe you failed a test, were rejected when asking out your crush, didn't make the team, or fill-in-the-blank for countless other ways we fall short in our lives. The same is true in our spiritual lives when we all too often fall into sin and turn away from Jesus. But that doesn't mean we're doomed and defined by our failure. Today, we'll be looking at how even in the midst of our falling, Jesus moves quickly to restore us back to right relationship with Himself.

Ask: **In your life, who is someone you can count on to be there for you, no matter what?** (Allow students to respond.)

Ask: **How would that person respond to your failure? What if you hurt them, how would they respond then?** (Allow students to share.)

Ask: **What's the worst part about hurting someone we have a close relationship with?** (Allow students to respond. If anyone talks about how the relationship just isn't right, jump on this idea: restoring a right relationship with God is where we'll be heading in this lesson.)

Ask: **Is anyone comfortable sharing a story about a time when you were able to restore a relationship?** (Allow students to share, but don't push students if they don't want to share. Be prepared to share a story from your own life, if applicable.)

Say: **It's rare to have people in our lives who love us even in the face of our hurting them. Those people that stick by our side are incredibly valuable to us. Even after we're granted access by faith to a right relationship with God, we will still sin and hurt Him. Today we're going to explore how to restore that right relationship with God when we sin.**

IMPART

Read Matthew 14:22-33.

Say: **This story takes place during Jesus' earthly ministry. Keep in mind that He's just worked**

IMPART

Read Matthew 14:22-33.

How would you react when you see Jesus walking toward you...on water?

What does Peter do when he recognizes Jesus?

What do you think of this action? Was it smart? Foolish? Faithful?

Peter does actually walk on the water... for a time. In verse 30, what causes him to sink?

LESSON: WHEN WE FALL

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one of his greatest miracles, feeding the five thousand and just before that, John the Baptist, Jesus' relative, had been beheaded. Put yourself in the place of the disciples: you're tired from a day of ministry, mourning John the Baptist, and now fighting against a storm.

Ask: **How would you react when you see Jesus walking toward you ... on water?** (Allow students to share their answers.)

Ask: **What does Peter do when he recognizes Jesus?** (He tells Jesus to command him to come to him on the water.)

Ask: **What do you think of this action? Was it smart? Foolish? Faithful?** (Allow students to share their impressions. As crazy as it must seem, particularly in the midst of a storm, Peter is demonstrating his faith in Jesus by asking to walk on the water.)

Ask: **Peter does actually walk on the water ... for a time. In verse 30, what causes him to sink?** (He took his eyes off Jesus, looks at the strength of the wind, and becomes afraid. Peter walks on the water while he fixes his eyes on Jesus, but doubt creeps in and he sinks. Peter lacked the faith that Jesus was enough and more powerful than the storm, so he sinks.)

Say: **Peter fails because he looks at something else instead of looking to Jesus. In particular, he looks at the strength of the wind. What does it mean to take our eyes off of Jesus?** (To look somewhere else for happiness, security, or satisfaction. To love something more than Jesus. Peter loved his life more than Jesus; he didn't trust Jesus with his life and safety.)

Ask: **What are some of the things you look at instead of Jesus?** (Grades, popularity, significant others, binging on TV shows, self-perception, popularity, circumstances in life, etc.)

Ask: **Why do we look at these things instead of Jesus?** (We believe these things are bigger or better than Jesus. We don't think Jesus is enough. We think these things can bring us more happiness, security, or satisfaction than Jesus can. We make these good things into gods.)

Say: **While Peter has enough faith to step out of the boat and walk on the water for a few steps, he fails to keep his eyes on Jesus.**

IMPART

Read Matthew 14:22-33.

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Peter's faith shifts from the firm and steady Son of God to concern for his life and circumstances he's in. And so he begins to sink.

Ask: **When you sin, do you tend to run toward God or away from God? Why?** (We often run away from God because we think we need to be good enough for God, or we think we can escape our sin. We run to God because we realize God is the only refuge from sin.)

Ask: **When Peter fails in verse 30, what does he do?** (He immediately turns to Jesus to save him. Peter recenters the object of his faith back to Jesus instead of looking to something else. This is called repentance. Peter repents of his sin, meaning he has remorse over what he has done, turns away from the sin he once looked to, and looks back to Jesus as his source of life.)

Say: **Peter's prayer wasn't long. He didn't timidly think through every word he was going to say. He didn't even wonder whether Jesus would help him. Instead, he desperately cried out to Jesus to save him. The second Peter realized he was falling, he sincerely looked to Jesus as the one who could save him from the sea. In the same way, we should run to God when we fall into sin. Repentance doesn't require saying the perfect words or cleaning up our act before coming to God. Rather, repentance is humbly acknowledging that you have sinned, regretting it with a genuine heart, turning away from this sin, and turning back to Jesus.**

Ask: **If you were Jesus, how would you respond when Peter doubted you and began to sink?** (Let students share some answers; see if they tend toward compassion to Peter's weakness or anger for his dishonoring Jesus with doubt.)

Ask: **How would you respond when he asked you for help?** (Observe whether students lean toward compassionate forgiveness or a desire to let Peter sink in his deserved sin.)

Ask: **How does Jesus respond to Peter's cry for help?** (Immediately, quickly, instantly, Jesus catches him. He doesn't let him drown, but saves him.)

Say: **Jesus rescues Peter, even when the disciple so wrongfully doubted him. If Jesus responded so graciously to Peter, can we trust Him to respond graciously to our sins?** (Absolutely!)

What does it mean to take our eyes off of Jesus?

What are some of the things you look at instead of Jesus?

Why do we look at these things instead of Jesus?

When you sin, do you tend to run toward God or away from God? Why?

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Ask: **What assures us of Jesus' faithfulness to forgive our sins?** (The cross. Jesus' death paid for all of our sins, past, present, and future. God is rich in mercy [Eph. 2:4] and we cannot out-sin His forgiveness. The cross assures us that Jesus won't give up on us because we continue to fall in sin. If we have faith in Christ, nothing can separate us from the love of God [Rom. 8:35-39].)

Ask: **In verse 33, how do the disciples respond to Jesus' demonstration of grace and power?** (They worship him.)

Ask: **How should we respond when Jesus restores us to right relationship with him?** (We should worship Him. The only fitting response to Jesus' grace and forgiveness is to worship and confess that He is the Son of God.)

IMPACT

To close down the lesson, give students some time to reflect, either individually (a short quiet time where they write in their books), collectively (a group sharing time), or both. You know your group; do the debrief that you think would be best.

CHRIST

Ask: **What sins do you need to confess to Jesus for His forgiveness?** (Allow time for students to write their sins on the cross as an act of repenting and turning back to Jesus.)

COMMUNITY

Ask: **What fellow Christians might need to hear the news of Jesus' abundant forgiveness? What might you say to help them with this great truth?**

Ask: **How does sharing your own struggles with sin and experience of Jesus' forgiveness encourage other believers?**

CULTURE

Ask: **In the non-Christian world, are people more likely to forgive or condemn us? Are people more likely to forgive or condemn themselves? How does Jesus offer a safe place to an unforgiving world?**

Ask: **Is there anyone who needs your forgiveness? How can you extend this forgiveness and follow Jesus' example in order to restore the relationship with that person?**

What assures us of Jesus' faithfulness to forgive our sins?

In verse 33, how do the disciples respond to Jesus' demonstration of grace and power?

How should we respond when Jesus restores us to right relationship with him?

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