

IT'S NOT ME, IT'S YOU

HOW TO DEAL WITH
DIFFICULT PEOPLE

Week #3

Peter

(Those Who Abandon You)



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HOW TO LEAD YOUR YCI CLUB



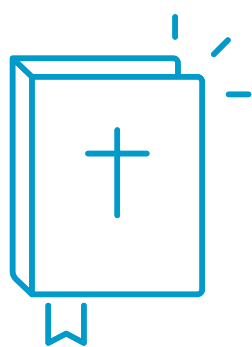
Play

Play a game together.



Pray

Spend time praising and thanking God in prayer.



Grow

Learn from Scripture about who God says He is and how we should respond to Him.



Go

Look for opportunities to share the Gospel, and serve others in your community with your YCI club members.



TIPS FOR USING THIS CURRICULUM

THREE RECOMMENDATIONS AS YOU LEAD YOUR FRIENDS IN PLAYING, PRAYING, GROWING & GOING

1) FAMILIARIZE

Prior to your weekly YCI club gatherings, spend time reading the curriculum to make sure you understand the game and devotional. Leading is easier when you are well-prepared!

2) ORGANIZE

The "Grow" portion of the YCI Club Curriculum gives you the "pieces" for a devotional, but it is up to you to put the pieces together. You may want to give "Book, Hook, Look & Took" a try:

- 1) Book:** Read the Bible verses.
- 2) Hook:** Share a brief personal story or idea that relates to the Scripture.
- 3) Look:** Share the context of the Scripture.
- 4) Took:** Share the takeaways from the "Learn & Apply" section.

3) CUSTOMIZE

Since every YCI club is different, it is important that you modify this content to fit your context. If you need help with this, we encourage you to reach out to your club's Campus Mentor!



PICK A SIDE!

First, one student should be chosen as the “Question Master”. Next, the Question Master should make a statement about themselves or a topic that most students would know about, and it can be either true or false. Once a statement is made, the rest of the YCI club should stand on the Question Master’s right side if they think it is true, and they should stand on the left side if they think it’s false. Once everyone has chosen a side, the Question Master should indicate if the statement is true or false, and everyone on the opposing side must sit down. This process should continue until there is only one person left standing. They’re the winner of the game!



ASK GOD FOR HIS WILL TO BE DONE IN THESE AREAS:



CLUB TIME

Pray that God will speak to everyone in the room through His Word.



GROUP NEEDS

Take time to discuss and pray over the personal needs and requests of those in attendance.



SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Ask God to move in situations that are unique to your school and community.



WHERE WE'RE GOING

HOW DID JESUS DEAL WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE?

When we face difficult circumstances, we can take comfort in knowing that “we do not have a high priest [Jesus] who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin” (Heb. 4:15 ESV).

Particularly in the area of relational stress and struggle, no one in all of human history is more experienced than Jesus.

From his birth in Bethlehem to his ascension on Mount Olivet, he regularly interacted with people that stood in opposition to His mission. However, regardless of the individual, Jesus' response consistently included themes of:

- 1) **Identity**
- 2) **Understanding**
- 3) **Purpose**

In the **“It's Not Me, It's You”** curriculum, we're going to take a closer look at three difficult people Jesus interacted with in **Matthew 26:**

- 1) **Judas** (Those Who Betray You)
- 2) **Caiaphas** (Those Who Persecute You)
- 3) **Peter** (Those Who Abandon You)

Prayerfully, as we look closer at how Jesus responds to each of these individuals, the Holy Spirit will strengthen and equip us to love the difficult people in our lives!



WEEK #3: PETER

THOSE WHO ABANDON YOU

MATTHEW 26:69-75 (ESV)

“**69** Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” **70** But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you mean.” **71** And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” **72** And again he denied it with an oath: “I do not know the man.” **73** After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.” **74** Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the man.” And immediately the rooster crowed. **75** And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.”

PETER’S RESTORATION (JOHN 21:15-17 ESV)

“**15** When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” **16** He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” **17** He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”



HOW DID JESUS DEAL WITH THOSE WHO ABANDONED HIM?

IDENTITY

Peter's abandonment doesn't catch Jesus by surprise. Earlier in Matthew 26, Jesus warns him that he would deny their relationship three times. How does Jesus manage the emotional weight of being let down by His most devoted follower? Even though those He loved on Earth were forsaking Him, He found solace in the knowledge that His position as God's Son remained secure. Regardless of who left Him on Earth, His destiny was to sit at His Father's right hand (Heb. 1:3). On this side of eternity, people may let us down, but we can take comfort in the assurance that nothing can separate us from God's love (Rom. 8:31)!

UNDERSTANDING

Despite frequently warning His disciples about His impending death, Jesus shows compassion to Peter, who is taken aback and momentarily disobedient. Likewise, it can be beneficial to pause and reflect on why certain individuals in our lives have chosen to depart. While this understanding doesn't excuse hurtful actions, it can foster compassion within us.

PURPOSE

In His post-resurrection conversation with Peter, Jesus emphasizes that the evidence of Peter's love for Him will be displayed in how he cares for and loves people ("tend my sheep"). Just as purpose guided Jesus through unimaginable suffering, He imparts to Peter a divine sense of purpose that would ultimately result in the establishment of the New Testament church. The most profound way we can express our love for God is through our love for imperfect people!

LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS
(IF TIME ALLOWS)

QUESTION #1

What is one thing that “jumped out” to you while reading Matthew 26:69-75?

QUESTION #2

As a YCI club, what are some practical things we can do to support and encourage those who have been abandoned or let down by others?

QUESTION #3

Can you think of a time when you, or someone you know, experienced abandonment? What did you learn from that experience?

Note: While it's important to demonstrate the mercy and grace of Jesus, there are times when it's unadvisable, and maybe even unsafe, to reconnect with someone who has hurt you. If it's dangerous for your physical, emotional or spiritual health, do not restore contact with the individual.



BEFORE YOU GO

BIG IDEA



In the midst of Peter's abandonment, Jesus did not lose sight of His status as God's Son. When people depart from our lives, we can find comfort in knowing that God will never leave us, and we can find strength in sharing Him with others!

SHARING TRUTH



Who is someone in your life that needs to hear about what we discussed today? Pray for them, and find time this week to encourage them.

MEETING NEEDS



What is something your YCI club can do to show God's love this semester?



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