

GENESIS

begin. belong. believe.

a story of betrayal... Judas & Peter

Big Idea

We all sin because we're not perfect, in the language of the Bible, we're fallen. This is a freeing notion; we can't be perfect so we can stop pretending that everything in life is okay and that we've got everything together. The real question is how do we react to our imperfection, or sin? When we betray Jesus do we turn to the 'self-saving tree' like Judas; or like Peter, do we look to the tree (the cross) where Jesus provides salvation?

Questions for Discussions

1. John tells us in **1 John 1:8-9** – *“if we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness”* How can admitting this truth be freeing? How can the realization that we are imperfect and we sin (even after Encountering Jesus) lead to a life where we no longer have to perform or pretend we have it all together?
2. Isolation was a contributing factor to Judas' betrayal of Jesus. Are you living an isolated life? Who are the people in your life that you are encouraging/challenging and who are the people that are encouraging/challenging you? *(NOTE: This may seem like an odd question to ask in Community Group, but the reality is that just participating in community group does not guarantee that we are sharing our lives with others.)*
3. Once you realize you've sinned, how quickly do you confess that sin to Jesus? Once the sin is confessed, do you quickly celebrate God's forgiveness or do you do some sort of 'penance' trying to 'feel' more forgiven because you've earned the right to feel and act forgiven because of your 'penance'? What does your 'self-imposed' penance look like?
4. **1 Peter 5:8-9** – *“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith...”* How are you doing being “on your guard” against the enemy (*the devil... a roaring lion*) who wants to devour you? Practically, what are you doing to 'stay on guard' against the attacks of the enemy? Specifically, what sin(s) have brought you down in the past that you need to be even more 'on guard' against? Who is helping you fight this fight?
5. God wants to use our failures in order to help encourage, inspire and show others the power of the His Gospel. Paul tells Timothy in **1 Timothy 1:15-16** – *“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life”* Who is learning from your worst moments? Are your failures private, or are they being used by God to help bring others to Jesus? Who in your life right now might benefit greatly from hearing how God redeemed your 'betrayal' for something good?