

## SESSION SIX

# I AM SECURE

As followers of Jesus, we  
are secure in our salvation.

### KEY PASSAGES

*Matthew 26:31-35,69-75;  
John 21:15-17; Acts 2:36-41*

### KEY VERSE

*Romans 8:38-39*

# SPARK THE CONVERSATION

Everyone makes mistakes. What was the last mistake you made? How did it impact your life? How did it impact the people around you? Did the mistake have an impact on your relationship with God? Peter made several mistakes, such as denying Jesus during His trial. Even though Peter made mistakes, Jesus still invited him to participate in His ministry. Can you relate to Peter in any way? How has God restored you to a position where you can be used by Him? As you lead, encourage preteens that God can use anyone for His purposes. There is nothing they can do to make God stop loving them.

## IGNITE **PDG**

### YOU WILL NEED

- Preteen Discipleship Guides (1 per preteen)

As preteens arrive, guide them to complete “Crossword Search” in their discipleship guides (PDG, 46).

**Ask:** What did all of these items listed in the puzzle have in common? (They can be broken.)

**Say:** We are all broken by sin. (See Romans 3:23.) Sin affects everything in our world, including our identities. God makes us new creations when we trust in Jesus, but unfortunately, you don’t stop sinning after you become a Christian. One day, Jesus will return and make us sinless like Him. Until then, we still live in a broken world. As believers, we have the power to say no to sin, but we are still tempted towards sin. Sometimes we choose to disobey God and choose our own way. The good news is that if you are a Christian, God has already forgiven you because of your faith in Jesus. He wants you to know nothing you do can remove or even lessen His love for you.

SHARPEN & STRENGTHEN **PDG**

## YOU WILL NEED

- Bibles (1 per preteen)
- Preteen Discipleship Guides (1 per preteen)
- Item 8: The Life of Peter (1 per preteen)

## PREPARE

- Print copies of Item 8: The Life of Peter.

**Comment:** The Bible gives us many examples of disobedient people that God used for His glory. Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Jonah ran away from God. Saul (who later became known as Paul) actively persecuted Christians. God still loved every one of these people, even though they sinned again, and again. This week we will examine the life of Peter.

**Ask:** What are some things you know about Peter?

Invite preteens to state information they can recall about Peter. (Answers may vary but could include: He was a disciple of Jesus; He was a missionary; He was also called Simon; He walked on water, and so forth.)

Distribute Item 8: The Life of Peter and lead preteens to read each statement aloud and discuss.

**🔑 WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I STILL SIN?**

**Say:** Peter was a faithful disciple of Jesus. He had seen Jesus walk on water, perform miracles, and even talk to Moses and Elijah. (See Matthew 14:28, Luke 5:4-10, Matthew 17:3.)

**Continue:** In Matthew 26, Jesus is observing Passover with His disciples.

*Read Matthew 26:31-35 or invite preteens to read these verses aloud.*

**Ask:** What did Peter promise Jesus? (He would never deny Jesus.)

**Explain:** Peter was confident he would never turn his back on Jesus, but he was wrong.

*Read Matthew 26:69-75 or invite a preteen to read these verses aloud.*

**Continue:** Peter denied Jesus three times that night. When he heard the sound of the rooster and remembered Jesus' words, Peter went outside and wept bitterly.

**Ask:** Have you ever been sorrowful over your sin? Explain. (Allow preteens to answer in their discipleship guides.)

**Say:** It could be easy for us to read this passage and be quick to judge Peter because of his sin. But we need to remember that we are just like Peter. We can be tempted to become spiritually arrogant, believing that we are somehow better than others, or that we will never sin the way others do. Peter walked alongside Jesus in His ministry and knew He was the Messiah, but still he denied Jesus in fear of his own life. If we adopt the cultural worldview that our efforts and mistakes define us, we can believe the lie that our mistakes keep us from serving God in the future. However, Peter's story reminds us that this isn't true. Let's see what happened the next time Peter saw Jesus.

## **🔒 DOES MY SIN DEFINE ME?**

**Explain:** After Jesus had been crucified and raised from the dead, He met some of His disciples on the shore of the Sea of Tiberias where they were fishing. Jesus prepared breakfast and asked them to eat with Him. Let's read about Jesus' conversation with Peter.

*Ask a preteen to read John 21:15.*

**Ask:** Why do you think Jesus asked Peter this question? Did Jesus know that Peter had denied knowing Him? (Allow preteens to answer in their discipleship guides.)

**Continue:** Jesus knew what Peter would do before it even happened, but through this encounter Jesus was doing something new in Peter (See Matthew 26:34.) Jesus wanted Peter to understand that his sin of denial was forgiven. Jesus restored Peter to the work God had for him.

**Ask:** What was Jesus' response to Peter after he told Jesus he loved Him? (Feed My lambs)

*Invite a preteen to read aloud John 21:16.*

**Say:** Jesus asked Peter the same question a second time, and again

asked him to feed His sheep or lambs. The sheep Jesus was talking about were not actual sheep. Jesus called Himself the Good Shepherd and the people who followed Him, sheep. (See John 10:11.) Jesus was telling Peter to take care of the people who were following Him. God's plan was not for Peter to go back to the life of a fisherman, but to continue pointing others to Jesus.

*Select a volunteer to read aloud John 21:17.*

**Continue:** This is the third time Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him. Have you ever wondered why Jesus asked Peter the same question three times? Some Bible scholars believe it was because of the three times Peter denied Jesus. Others believe it was to demonstrate the significance of what Peter was asked to do. One thing we can be sure of is that Jesus had already forgiven Peter for denying Him and was restoring him to the ministry God called him to.

**Explain:** Peter sinned big time, and yet Jesus forgave and restored him. As a follower of Jesus, you're still going to sin. There will be times you disobey God and choose your own way over God's best for you. But even when we sin, we can know that God is merciful and forgiving. He has already forgiven us through Jesus. **As followers of Jesus, we are secure in our salvation.**

## 🔒 HOW DO I KEEP GOING?

**Say:** After Peter was restored, God continued working in his life to bring many people to salvation. The Book of Acts teaches about Peter's ministry. In Acts 2, Peter preached a sermon telling people the gospel of Jesus. Peter told the people they had rejected Jesus, and they needed to repent and be baptized.

*Read Acts 2:36-41 or invite preteens to read these verses aloud.*

**Ask:** How many people trusted in Jesus that day? (Allow preteens to answer in their discipleship guides.)

**Explain:** Peter was a faithful follower of Jesus, but he wasn't perfect. Jesus helped Peter understand that his sins were completely forgiven—past, present, and future. His life and ministry reminds us that we are not perfect, but we are redeemed and restored children of God. Nothing we do or don't do will make God stop loving us. He loves us the same on our best days and our worst days.

## MAKE THE CONNECTION

**Say:** We can be tempted to believe that we are failures because of the wrong choices we make. Let's be honest—we all have made many wrong choices, but there is nothing we can do that will make God stop loving us.

**Conclude:** As followers of Jesus, our identities are rooted in who God says we are, not in our choices, our mistakes, or our failures. While we will still sin as Christians, we can trust that because of our faith in Jesus, our sins are forgiven. **As followers of Jesus, we are secure in our salvation.** (Guide preteens to fill in these statements in their PDG.) As we study God's Word and grow in our faith, God helps us follow Him and resist the temptation (desire) to sin.

## 🕒 KEY VERSE

*For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39*

### YOU WILL NEED

- Item 2: Allergy Alert
- Masking tape
- Paper plates (1 per preteen)
- White board
- Markers
- Marshmallows
- Stopwatch or timer
- Scissors

### PREPARE

- Print and post Item 2: Allergy Alert.
- Tape two long lines on the floor about 6 feet apart.
- Cut a 3-inch hole in the center of each plate.
- Print the key verses that have been studied on the white board: Genesis 1:26-27, Philippians 2:13, Romans 6:23, Romans 8:1, Ephesians 1:7-8, Romans 8:38-39.

Guide preteens to find and read the key verses from previous sessions. Discuss each verse and what preteens learned about God or themselves.

Guide preteens to find partners. Instruct one partner to stand on a tape

mark and hold a paper plate. The other partner will stand on the opposite line and attempt to toss the marshmallow through the hole in his partner's plate. After each toss, preteens will reverse roles.

For each successful toss in a 60-second round, teams should find the key verse in the Bible and say the verse aloud. Teams earn five points for completing each round. The team with the most points wins. Play as time allows.

## FIRE IT UP!

### A MESSAGE WORTH NOTING **PDG**

#### YOU WILL NEED

- Preteen Discipleship Guides (1 per preteen)

Guide preteens to complete "A Message Worth Noting" in their discipleship guides (PDG, 48).

**Ask:** What message did you discover? (I am secure.) What does it mean for something to be secure? (Free from or not exposed to danger or harm; safe) What are some things that make you feel secure?

**Continue:** The most common definition of secure is to be safe. You keep things secure if they are valuable to you. Did you know you are valuable to God? You are secure in your relationship with Him. Nothing you can do, think, or say will separate you from His love. Your salvation is secure.

### WATER BOTTLE WRAPS

#### YOU WILL NEED

- Scissors
- Permanent markers
- Water bottles
- Strips of hook-and-loop fasteners
- Craft foam
- Newspaper
- Stickers

#### PREPARE

- Cut the craft foam 4-inches tall and long enough to fit around the water bottles with ½-inch overlap (1 per preteen).
- Cover the work surface with newspaper.

**TEACHING TIP** Provide disposable gloves for preteens to wear.

**Ask:** What are some things that make you feel secure?

**Continue:** Some people have specific items that make them feel secure. This could be a blanket or hoodie, a photograph of someone, or even being close to someone. Often our culture tells us to look to items, to people, or to ourselves for our security, but God wants us to find our security and hope in Him only. (See Isaiah 58:11.) He is the only one who fully satisfies us. No matter where you are, you are secure in your relationship with God. God loves you and wants what is best for you.

Distribute supplies. Direct preteens to wrap craft foam around the water bottles and secure in place with the strips of hook-and-loop fasteners.

Invite preteens to use markers and stickers to decorate the craft foam wrappers. Suggest preteens write the key idea, key verse, or other statements that will help people know they can trust in God. Assist as needed.

Share about a time you felt secure in God's love. Discuss how you feel knowing your salvation is secure in Christ. Encourage preteens to share their water bottles with others and talk about what God is teaching them.

Preview the week's daily pages and review and discuss the entries from the previous week. Point out the Family Guide pages for preteens to use at home. Print pages for preteens without a discipleship guide (Item 3).

## BREAK IT DOWN

**State:** Peter was a man who made some wrong choices. Can you relate to him in that way? Peter, a follower of Jesus, sinned and was restored. Nothing Peter did or didn't do made God stop loving Him. The same is true for us. When a person trusts in Jesus, nothing and no one can take that gift of salvation away. We can have confidence of who we are knowing that **as followers of Jesus, we are secure in our salvation.**

*Read aloud Romans 8:38-39 from the key verse cards.*

**Finish:** Romans 8:38-39 remind us of our salvation. See if you can memorize these verses this week. As you complete the daily discipleship journal, say these verses and reflect on your relationship with God.