



FACILITATOR'S GUIDE—YOUTH

Year 3—The God Who Pursues Relationship: A Story of God's People

Module 6—Jesus and His Church

Lesson 3: The Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus—Matthew 26–28

ENCOUNTER 1—Community Discussion

Read Matthew 26 together out loud as a group. Encourage each person to journal through the passage using these questions. After allowing sufficient time for reflection, invite the group to share their thoughts.

How is this God's story?

How is this others' story?

How is this my story?

How is this the world's story?

ENCOUNTER 2—Community Discussion

(Read the biblical reflection included with this lesson. The questions are designed for your group to enter into a meaningful dialogue about the Scriptures. The bulleted teaching points are taken from the reflection and correspond to the questions.)

GOD'S STORY

How would you describe God's love?

- Love is the essence of God.
- God cannot choose not to love you and me. Because God is love, God must love.

Does everyone have the opportunity to experience God's love?

- Everyone has the opportunity to choose to love God back.
- Everyone has been invited to be loved by God and express that love to others through God's presence. God's love, therefore, is personal. By the act of adoption, we are sons and daughters of God. We have been taken up in God's arms. This love of God for all of humanity seeks to awaken a response in humanity.

OUR STORY

What do we know about Peter?

- Peter is known for many things. He is known for Jesus telling him it was on that the church would be built. He is known for walking on water with Jesus albeit for a short time. Peter is known to have initially refused for Jesus to wash his feet and then later allowed, of course.
- He is also known for being the first to walk into the empty tomb of Jesus. Peter is known also for all of his work to spread the gospel and built the church as outlined in the book of Acts. Peter was a martyr. He was killed on a cross, upside down.

In what ways might the story of Peter's denial remind us of ourselves?

- It is simple—because each of us has in some way withdrawn

OTHERS' STORY

Why do you think Jesus invited others to pray with Him?

- The night before He was facing His death in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus invites the help of His closest friends. In the still and lonely time that comes with awaiting His death, Jesus longed for the presence and participation of His friends.

THE WORLD'S STORY

When we participate in the Lord's Supper, we do so in remembrance of Jesus. What exactly are we remembering?

- Remembrance is to be of Christ's person and work, specifically His birth, ministry, His sacrificial death on the cross and, of course, victory over death.

What is one way we should understand the Lord's Supper for our own life?

- This is a pattern for our life. It is not merely a worship service component or a private reflective practice to gauge one's holiness. Jesus has taken us, chosen us. Jesus has broken us, helping us get past self.
- Jesus blessed the bread, meaning He blessed us or commissioned us for His work to continue after he was no longer on earth. Finally, Jesus gave the bread, meaning that Jesus gave us into the world.

PRAYER

(Lead your group in corporate prayer.)

Son of God, Jesus, we know that we may do things that hurt our relationship with you. We are ready to turn away from those things and turn toward you. We want to go where you make us go in all of our future days.

Thank you for dying on the cross so that we might be forgiven. Come into our lives this day. Come in as our Savior and Lord. Come in to be with us forever. Thank you Lord Jesus. Amen.

WEEKLY PRACTICE

(Read the weekly practice out loud, and challenge your group to practice missio beyond today.)

Write a 5-7 word prayer of repentance. Place this prayer on a place you see frequently such as your steering wheel, your home screen on your phone or tablet, your mirror, or your locker door. Each time you see this prayer, take the time to say it and try to memorize it. See if you are able to share your prayer, from memory, with the group next time you meet.

BECOMING MY STORY

(Encourage the group to spend time this week in God's Word, allowing it to penetrate their heart and life.)

Jeremiah 31:19

Ezekiel 18:31-32

Luke 3:3

Spend time this week reading and journaling through the above scriptures. Reflect on how the passage is God's story, my story, others' story and the world's story. In the context of Matthew 26-28, consider the following questions:

How are these Scripture passages related to the message in Matthew 26-28?

How do these scriptures tell us about the story of God being continued from Matthew 26-28?

What is God saying to you through these passages?

Consider other passages you might know related to Matthew 26-28 and read them this week, journaling as you go.