



Sway

Week 4: They will know we are Christians by our _____.

What we want students to learn: A life of faith isn't easy, it's better.

What we want students to do with what they've learned: We want student to be better equipped to handle the tough decisions, situations, and challenges of life.

Large Group Message Focus: The message was about Jesus's decision to take the place of Barabbas. He made the hard choice to love Barabbas and take his spot to be crucified rather than defend Himself.

Scripture Focus: John 13:34-38

Supporting Scripture: John 18:19-27

The Main Point

This lesson will look at Peter and Jesus at the last supper and Peter's denial. Peter is so much like us that he wants to do the right thing, but when the time comes to do it, he chokes or hesitates and misses the opportunity. We will dive into why this happens and what to do about it.

INTRODUCTION

Everyone wants to have a legacy. People desire to be known by something they accomplished, achieved, or discovered.

THEN, ask the Ice Breaker:

- **Think of a couple of influential people in your life and describe them in one word.**

The point of this ice breaker is to think about how people impact our lives and to think how we would want to impact others. We are going to look at how we, as Christians, impact others and more specifically how our toughest decisions leave the greatest legacy.

PRAY that your students will be present throughout this group and that God will show them what He wants them to leave behind.

LESSON

Read John 13:34-35 and ask the following questions.

John 13:34-35 (NIV) - "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

- **As Christians, what are we supposed to be known by?**
 - *Jesus says we will be known by how we love each other.*

- **Do you think Christians, in general, are doing a good job at this, loving one another?**

Read John 13:36-38. Explain some backstory on Peter before asking these questions. He was the rock that Jesus would build His church on, one of the more influential disciples, and is described as the disciple whom Jesus loved.

John 13:36-38 (NIV) - ³⁶Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later." ³⁷Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." ³⁸Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!

- **What was Peter willing to do for Jesus and what was Jesus's response?**
 - *Peter said he was willing to die for Jesus, but Jesus questioned him. Jesus said that He would disown Him three times.*
- **Why do you think Jesus questioned Peter?**
 - *When Peter tells Jesus that he will lay himself down for Him, he doesn't understand what Jesus is about to do. Peter did end up dying for Jesus, but only after he realized what Jesus had done for him. God sent Jesus out of love (John 3:16). Love is what made Jesus switch positions with Barabbas. Jesus LOVED Barabbas! This love is what Peter was lacking in this verse. The Holy Spirit hadn't come yet, which brings this love, and Peter only knew of natural love. Once Jesus took Barabbas's place, once Jesus died, supernatural love came into the world.*

Reread John 13:38 and John 18:19-27 and ask the following questions.

- **How did Peter respond to this faith test in these verses? Why do you think he denied Jesus?**
 - Peter took the easy way out. He denied that He knew Jesus, a man that he previously said that he would lay his life down for and now he didn't want to be associated with him. Peter was not known by His love for Jesus at that moment.

The thing about the Gospel is that it boils down to love. Not devotion, not goodness, not living right. It is always Jesus. "If Jesus's blood is enough to save you, then it is enough to help you through the trials and tough decisions you will face." -Judah Smith

LIFE APPLICATION

- **Has there been a time in your life where you had a "faith test" and messed it up?**
 - *Everyone has! Jesus told us in John 16:33 that we would face trials and tribulations. But don't be discouraged! God loves you and will keep loving you when you keep messing up! When you face tough decisions, give it to God. He is the one that can help you through it. God is the one who can show you what to do.*
 - **What is one thing that you could do differently in a situation that tests your faith this week?**
 - **If you could boil your life down to one word, what would you want to be known by?**
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TAKE IT OUT

Close small group out with prayer requests. Pray specifically that your group would be encouraged this week that Jesus will be with them every step of the way.

After prayer, be sure to remind them of any upcoming group serving activities or student events and THE WEEKEND!