

WEEK 4

DISCUSSION GUIDE for middle schoolers

THE MAKING OF

THIS WEEK

BIG IDEA

Growth happens when we're honest with God about our brokenness.

BIBLE

Luke 18:9-14; 1 John 1:8-9; Mark 2:17; Psalm 139:23-24

ABOUT THIS WEEK

We are all sinners, each carrying things we're not proud of. If left unchecked, these can lead us to shame or self-righteousness. But at the heart of our faith is the confession that we are broken and need a Savior. True growth happens when we run to Jesus, not from Him—being honest about our brokenness allows Him to bring healing and transformation. **Growth happens when we're honest with God about our brokenness.**

Let's Break the Ice // **OPTIONAL: Discipleship Moment Follow-Up:**

- If you had to wear a sign around your neck that revealed one thing about you that would give others an honest first impression of who you are, what would it say?
- **Optional Discipleship Moment:** Last week, we talked about how journaling can be a way to help you connect with God in an honest way. Did anyone try that out? How did it go?

Before We Open Our Bibles:

- What stood out to you from the message this week?
- Have you ever done something wrong and didn't know whether or not you should talk to someone about it? Did the situation get better or worse based on your decision?

Bible Study:

- **Read Together: Read Luke 18:9-14 together**
 - *Telos Bible Page Numbers: pg 1022*

Discussion Questions:

- What stands out to you in these passages from Luke 18? Why?
- The Pharisee believed he was righteous and looked down on others. How do we sometimes fall into that same mindset?
 - How can self-righteousness affect our prayer lives?
- The tax-collector on the other hand was honest about his brokenness before God. Why do you think Jesus said He was justified?
 - The tax-collector is a clear example of how we should pray. Why then is it so easy for us to NOT be vulnerable in prayer?

- **Read Together: Read 1 John 1:8-9**

- *Telos Bible Page Numbers: pg. 1229*

- What does this passage teach us about confession and God's faithfulness (besides the obvious)?
- How does knowing that God is faithful to forgive us impact how we approach Him?

Make It Real:

- Confession of sin is taught in the Bible (James 5:16) –both to God and to trusted, godly friends. Who in your life can you trust to confess sin to? Why is it so important for those people to have a strong faith and understanding of who God is?

Prayer:

- Share Requests: Share any prayer requests or praises with the group.
- Group Prayer: Ask God to help us trust Him in difficult moments, to guide us through challenges, and to grow our character through each experience.

[Optional for middle school] Discipleship Moment:

Confession: Find a trusted mentor or friend in your faith community and commit to honest conversations about your struggles. This week, set aside time to confess one area of your life where you need God's help. Then, pray together and ask for accountability as you seek growth and healing. **NOTE TO SMALL GROUP LEADERS:** *Remind students that some things are ok to share with their friends, but some things may need to be shared with a trusted adult. If they have anything to share or if someone shares something with them that may seem a bit heavy, make sure to take the proper approach and follow up appropriately. Make sure students know that you are a safe, trusted person with whom they can share. If you need more clarity on this, talk to your campus student ministry pastor.*