

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Asking for a Friend - Week 5



CONNECT

Spend some time checking in. What are highs and lows since you last met? How can your group members pray for and support each other this week?

GROW

- When have you experienced a gap between someone's actions and who you thought they were? When have you been the one with the gap?
- Have you ever asked or been asked "Why is the church full of hypocrites?" What made you ask that question? Or how did you respond?
- Read Romans 7:15-25 1 John 1:8-10 (back). What do you notice?
- If a Christian is someone who acknowledges there is a gap (between who we are and who we want to be; between Jesus is and who we are; between what happens inside us and what happens outside of us), how does that influence your faith or your understanding of who Jesus is?
- If Jesus didn't come to make perfect people but to love imperfect people, how does that influence your relationships? How would that change your attitude about yourself?

PRAY

God, you gave us the gifts of questions. Help us to use our minds to learn, discern, and grow deeper in faith in you. Amen.



BIBLE READINGS

Romans 7:15-25

15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. **16** And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. **17** As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. **18** For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. **19** For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. **20** Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. **21** So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. **22** For in my inner being I delight in God's law; **23** but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. **24** What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? **25** Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

1 John 1:8-10

8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

