

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Empty / WEEK 2

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

The crowd might notice you, but only Jesus can fill you.

SCRIPTURE

John 18:29-40

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To show students that true fulfillment and satisfaction can only come from God. Allow a space for students to be vulnerable and honest about what they look for in life to fulfill them.

THINK ABOUT THIS

When have you sought the approval of others? What did it feel like for you in school to be accepted or not?

Create meaningful conversations. Adjust the questions as needed, and don't feel like you need to answer all of them.

DURING GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the most ridiculous thing that you have done to try to impress a crowd?
2. How do you think Pilate felt when the Jewish leaders brought Jesus to him? Why?
3. What do you think Pilate really thought about Jesus?
4. Pilate tried to get out of making a judgement about Jesus' fate by sending Him to Herod and by attempting to trade Barabbas for Him. Why was he so desperate to get rid of Jesus?
5. Several times Pilate said that he found no guilt in Jesus. Why didn't he just set Him free?
6. Why do you think the approval of the crowd was so important to Pilate?
7. Why is the approval of the crowd important to people your age?
8. How might we use something like popularity or attention to fill/satisfy our emptiness?
9. How can that become destructive?
10. Pilate's desire for approval caused him to abandon Jesus. How might our desire for approval lead to the same thing?
11. Pilate tried to wash away the guilt of his decision. Why was this futile?
12. What is the only real way a person can be rid of guilt and sin?
13. Are there ways where you let the approval of the crowd dictate your decisions?