

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Undefeated

BEFORE DISCUSSION

BOTTOM LINE

Because of Jesus, separation, sin and death are defeated.

SCRIPTURE

Jesus' death and resurrection – Mark 15-16, Matthew 26-28, Luke 22-24 or John 18-21

“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” 1 Peter 2:24 NIV

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split. Matthew 27:51 NIV

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV

“Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: “Death is swallowed up in victory. O death,

where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:54-57 NLT

THINK ABOUT THIS

In a conversation about separation, sin and death, it will be easy for students to think outwardly rather than look inwardly. When talking about sins, they're going to be tempted to name names or share specific scenarios that *don't* have anything to do with them. Why? Because they may not have the self-awareness to see their own sins clearly, or, if they do, they find it easier to talk generally about others than specifically about themselves. Do your best to speak broadly and steer the conversation away from any names, scenarios, or gossip.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here.

DURING DISCUSSION

ICE BREAKER

What's one thing you'd love to be undefeated at?

DISCUSS THIS

1. What's one example of the way a middle schooler might experience feeling separated from something they want?
2. What's one way you know you are close to someone?
3. What do you think it feels like to be close to God?
4. What's one example of a sin middle schoolers might struggle with?
5. Of the ones listed, which do you think the average middle schooler feels bad about struggling with or doing?
6. Which ones do you think they don't think are that big of a deal?
7. What do you do when you feel bad about something you've done?
8. Have you ever felt like God was mad at you when you sin? What do you think made you feel that way?
9. How does knowing Jesus died to beat sin for you make you feel?
10. How does knowing that nothing can defeat Jesus (even death!) change the way you think or feel about: Life here on earth? Life after someone dies?
11. If you believe in Jesus, how might knowing you have His power living in you change the way you live your life this week?
12. If you aren't sure yet what you believe about Jesus, what's one step you can take this week to find out more about Him?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE)

Explain that Easter isn't about mourning the loss of Jesus, but instead it's about rejoicing in the fact that He's still alive and that His Spirit lives in each of us. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, He defeated separation, sin, and death for us. That's something worth celebrating! So, celebrate this truth with an Easter party!