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SHEPHERDCHURCH

LESSON 1: THE LOUDMOUTH (PETER)

WELCOME

What's something you gave a second chance (food, movie, series, restaurant, etc.) and you're glad you did?

WORSHIP

As a Life Group, spend time in prayer, asking God to use this series in your life and to show you where you need a second chance, who in your life needs a second chance, and whom you might need to offer a second chance to.

WORD

If you haven't already, **watch the video lesson** and read Matthew 26:69–75 and John 21:15–17.

1. When Peter was questioned in Matthew 26:69–75, he denied knowing Jesus to avoid trouble. Where do Christians today feel pressure to stay quiet about Jesus?

2. Compare Peter's three denials in Matthew 26:69–75 with Jesus' three questions in John 21:15–17. What similarities and differences do you see? What might Jesus have been showing Peter?

3. Read 2 Peter 3:9. How does Peter's description of God comfort, encourage, or challenge you?

4. Read James 1:19. Just as Peter was quick to “pop off,” our society often rewards quick reactions (e.g., social media reactions). What are some ways that Christians can stay thoughtful when everyone else is rushing to speak?

5. Practice confession as a Life Group. Take a few minutes to pray quietly: confess to God where you’ve failed and where you need a second chance. Then, read 1 John 1:9 to yourself, and listen in silence. When everyone is finished, share with your Life Group if you feel comfortable: What did you tell God? What did you sense or feel after reading 1 John 1:9?

WITNESS

Jesus shared a meal with Peter before a difficult conversation. Is there someone you could invite to coffee or a meal who feels like they’ve blown it? How could you encourage that person? Share with your Life Group.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DEEPER STUDY FOR THIS WEEK

This section is designed to help you keep growing in your faith throughout the week by reflecting on what you discussed in your Life Group and studying passages/concepts related to the lesson. As you spend time with these prompts, ask God to speak to you, apply His Word to your life, and help you take your next step with Jesus. Go at your own pace, and invite the Holy Spirit to guide your time with Him.

- Review anything in the WORD section that either was not covered during your Life Group or that you want to take a deeper dive into.

- Memorize John 21:17.

- Read Matthew 14:28-31; 16:13-23; and John 13:6-9, and write down every bold/impulsive thing Peter says or does in these passages. Then, answer the following questions: What do these moments reveal about Peter's heart and his love for Jesus? How did Jesus respond each time? What does that teach you about how He deals with strong-willed people?

- Matthew 26:31-35 records Jesus warning the disciples that they would all fall away, and Peter insisting he never would. Luke 22:31-34 gives more of that conversation. Read both passages and pay close attention to the words "when you have turned back" in Luke 22:32. Then, write down 1) everything Jesus knew about Peter's coming failure, 2) what Jesus said He had already done for Peter, and 3) what He expected Peter to do afterward. Finally, answer this question: What does this conversation show about how Jesus sees our failures before they even happen?