

LIFE Group Leader Handout

March 8, 2015

Aftermath—Living with the Consequences of a Bad Decision

Pastor Mike O'Connor

Scripture—I Samuel 12:19-25

[19] And all the people said to Samuel, "Pray for your servants to the LORD your God, that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins this evil, to ask for ourselves a king." [20] And Samuel said to the people, "Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. [21] And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty. [22] For the LORD will not forsake his people, for his great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you a people for himself. [23] Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you, and I will instruct you in the good and the right way. [24] Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you. [25] But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king."

Main Idea—God is bigger than my mistakes; my life is not ruined by them

When we are living with the consequences of a bad decision—

The Guilt Aspect—all sin requires confession and repentance.

The Consequence Aspect—to handle these we must think rightly about our lives

- God is bigger than my wrong choice
- My life is not ruined
- I need perspective from spiritual leaders

Application—

What part of this message was of special importance to you?

Are you now or have you ever struggled with the consequences of a bad decision? How can you see God at work in the midst of it?

9 Ideas to Celebrate Easter With Your Small Group

By Amy Jackson

Lent is a season of fasting, waiting and reflecting. It prepares our hearts by casting out the excess and focusing solely on God. As we're convinced of his goodness and greatness over the 40 days of Lent, we are able to celebrate Easter in a new way: fully, freely and fervently.

Here are some simple ideas you can incorporate into your small group to celebrate the season together:

Read a Lent Devotional. Encourage your group members to read a Lent devotional this season. After you choose one, group members can read these plans on their own and discuss what they're learning with the group each week.

Choose a Lent or Easter Bible Study. Help your group focus on this important season by using a new study for a few weeks. Smallgroups.com has several to choose from.

Fast Together. Fasting is all about saying no to something good to make room for the best thing: God. Last Lent, my small group members each decided to fast from something and see what God would do.

Spend a Meeting in Prayer. One way to observe the waiting and seeking of Lent is to seek God through prayer. Set aside your study for a meeting and spend the time praying for one another, your church, your community, and our world. Focus the time however you would like. Bring a list of prayer items or compile a list when you're together.

Focus on Jesus' Mission. Easter is foundational to Jesus' mission. He came to begin ushering in the kingdom and he calls each of us to carry on that mission now. Discuss what your group can do to carry out Jesus' mission in your community. Find time in this season to serve together or build relationships with people who are far from God.

Do a Children's Activity. Set aside time to be with the kids (even if they don't usually attend meetings) and do a fun activity that shares the message of Easter. A quick search on Pinterest reveals lots of ideas!

Learn about Passover. Unless you are of Jewish heritage, most Christians do not make the connection between Passover and Easter. Passover, though, is the meal that Jesus' disciples were eating at the Last Supper. Do some research on this meal and discover how it connects with Easter. Learn how to put on a Passover Seder. You'll be inspired when you see how much of the Passover symbolism points directly to Jesus.

Discuss New Life in Christ. Easter is the perfect time to reflect on the new life we have in Christ. Look up verses that talk about how God is making things new. You might also spend time sharing stories of how God has given you new life in the last year.

Celebrate Together. If we truly believe Easter is foundational to our faith, shouldn't we celebrate abundantly? Throw a party that celebrates Christ's resurrection. Sing songs and share stories of how God has transformed and healed group members. Celebrate the power we have available to us as a result of