



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

The Chase / Week 1

LEADER PREP

BOTTOM LINE

Chasing Jesus means not chasing performance.

SCRIPTURE

As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught. But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me" But the Lord said to her, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:38-42 NLT).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students realize that growing their faith is about being in a relationship with Jesus, not meeting a certain level of performance.

THINK ABOUT THIS

With so many areas of their lives based on performing, choosing not to measure our relationship with Jesus by performance can be a challenging and abstract concept for students to grasp. Tie tangible ideas to what being with Jesus looks like. but, be sure to remind students that the "doing" doesn't win Jesus' approval; it's simply a way to connect with Him.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

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

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Is there an area in your life where you feel a lot of pressure to "perform"? (*School, sports, behavior, social media*)
2. In any of those areas, have you ever thought of God wanting you to perform better? Where do you think that idea came from?
3. After hearing how Mary and Martha reacted to having Jesus in their home, who do you relate to more with? Why? Are there certain areas of your life you feel more like Martha and certain areas you feel more like Mary?
4. If you'd been Martha, the one who was working hard to prepare her home for Jesus, how do you think it would have felt to see your sister chilling with Jesus and not working? How do you think Martha felt when Jesus said her sister was doing the better thing?
5. If you had been Mary, the one who was sitting with Jesus, would you have felt guilty just sitting there not working?
6. How do you think God wants you to live knowing you don't have to work for His love?
7. What's one thing you need to stop doing to chase performance FOR God? And what's one thing you can start doing to grow your relationship WITH God this week?

TRY THIS

Leaders—the goal of this week's conversation isn't to keep your students from doing things like reading their Bible and praying. The goal is to change the reason we do these things. Sometime this week, text your students to remind them to spend time WITH God, not because He wants them to perform, but because He wants to spend time with them.