

City Nights

Youth.

DATE

January 21st, 2026

SERIES

Back to the Basics: Week Three

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus frees us from the bondage of sin.

SCRIPTURE:

- John 3:16-17
- Romans 5:8-10
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-19

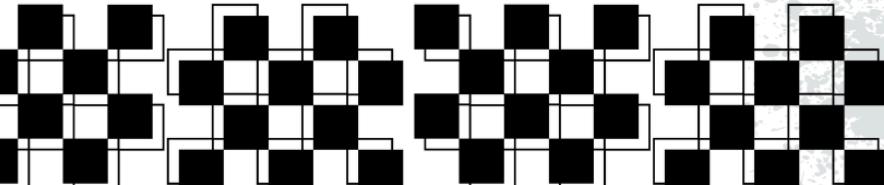
GOAL OF COMMUNITY GROUPS:

For students to see how Jesus' sacrifice made a way for us to continue in relationship with God and one another, regardless of our previous choices.

THINK ABOUT THIS:

This week, we're looking at how Jesus restores what sin has broken and brings hope through salvation. Highlight passages such as John 3:16–17 and Romans 5:8 to show that salvation is a gift, offered because of God's love, not because of our efforts. Talk about how Jesus' life, death, and resurrection reconcile us to God and open the way for restored relationships with Him, others, and creation. Encourage students to reflect on the personal significance of this gift and how it affects their daily lives.

Ask students what it means to trust Jesus, and how trusting Him changes their decisions, relationships, and view of the world. Highlight that salvation is relational, not just a one-time event. Encourage practical steps like prayer, reading the Bible, and sharing God's love with others. Remind students that salvation is transformative: Jesus not only forgives sin but also begins the work of shaping us into the people God originally designed us to be.



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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. The goal is to get students verbally engaging, NOT to get through everything in the curriculum.

DURING COMMUNITY GROUP

HIGH/LOWS & OPENING

Begin with highs & lows from their week after they introduce each other. Really take this time to listen and ask questions to show you are interested in their lives.

ICEBREAKER:

If you could be a professional at one thing, what would it be?

SCRIPTURE/VIDEO DISCUSSION:

(Some groups may watch the video to begin Group time and then break off into their smaller groups, and that's okay)

DISCUSS THIS

1. What does John 3:16–17 tell us about why Jesus came into the world?
2. How does it make you feel to know Jesus died for you while you were still a sinner?
3. What does it mean that salvation is a gift, not something we earn?
4. Have you experienced God's forgiveness in your life? How did it change you?
5. What does it look like to trust Jesus daily, not just once?
6. How does Jesus restore what sin has broken in relationships, hearts, and the world?
7. How does knowing Jesus brings new life affect the way you see your future?
8. What is one way you can share the hope of Jesus with someone this week?

