

BOTTOM LINE

12

We are sinners who have been redeemed.

SCRIPTURE: Romans 6:1-2

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

IN LARGE GROUP

Every adult Christian knows the struggle of feeling doubt, disgrace, and shame. They may recall how it felt to no longer feel close to God and to come off the high from camp or a mission trip. However, our students are feeling these emotions for the first time. Tonight, we want to explore the truth and implications that we are now dead to sin. Our natures have been changed. We are new creations; therefore, we can truly find freedom in Christ. This truth doesn't change even when we don't "feel" close to God. Tonight promises to be a powerful evening of sharing in group and celebrating with the whole camp.

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

To begin tonight's discussion, we're going to start with an activity. In your bag, you will find pencils and cards for the students to write their own cardboard testimonies. Please give them five minutes of complete silence to quietly reflect.

On one side they should write a phrase that finishes this sentence: "I was once _____."

On the other side of the card, they should finish the sentence: But now I am _____." Once all students have finished, bring them back together and ask them to share what they've written. Remember, it is okay if students have filled out only the front side of the card if they feel God has not shown up and changed how they see themselves. Use your compassion and skill as a small group leader to navigate those discussions.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- 1. What has God done specifically in your life that we can celebrate tonight?
- 2. Does anyone have a situation where God has not shown up yet? Would you mind sharing with everyone?
- 3. Read Romans 6:1–2. "By no means" is the strongest "no" in the Greek language. We have more powerful ways of saying no. How would you have said this?
- 4. When something is dead, what does it no longer have? (Life, power, breath, relationships, possessions)
- 5. What might it mean for us to be "dead to sin"?
- 6. If you were always truly able to remember that you were a new creation, how would that alter your actions?