

## Made for More Small Group Guide

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What is one of your favorite stories (either true or fictional)?
2. What is one new thing you have tried in the past 3 months?

**Read the following passage:** Revelation 21:1-4.

The biblical narrative begins and ends with human beings in God's presence. It's what we were made for. Life apart from God's presence is fraught with loneliness, pain, confusion, oppression, and all the other ills that plague our human experience. As we try to cope with life in a broken world, we inevitably develop our own narratives that drive our behaviors: "I need to be in control;" "I'm not worthy of love;" "It's up to me to take care of everyone else." These narratives may help us survive in the short-term, but they often lead to great pain as we continue in life. We all need the God of grace to enter into and redeem our broken stories.

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Read Matthew 26:31-35. Peter refused to believe that he would disown Jesus in the crucial moment. What kind of internal narrative might have been driving Peter's words and actions? Can you relate to Peter? Explain.
2. Read Luke 7:36-50. Do you relate more to the Pharisee or the unnamed woman? Explain.
3. Read Luke 10:38-42. Generally speaking, a willingness to take responsibility is a strong character trait. What are some signs that we are taking on responsibilities that God is not calling us to take? What are some healthy steps we can take when we feel overwhelmed by our responsibilities?
4. Which, if any, of the following narratives can you relate to? Explain.
  - If I know enough and generally have the right answers, then life will go well for me.
  - I can't be at peace unless I have my [parents', friends', professional peers'] approval.
  - I can't live with myself if I know I'm letting other people down.
  - I need to be self-reliant. Other people are just going to disappoint me.
  - I need to get things right. There's no excuse for me not having it all together.
  - I'm not sure that other people will actually like me if they find out what I'm really like.

- The idea of feeling sad or being hurt again is overwhelming to me. I need to keep things light and fun.
- I'm ashamed of who I am.
- It's up to me to keep my family together.

5. What is one element of your own internal narrative that you think God wants to adjust? Explain.

**Pray**