



Group Leader Guide

Sermon Recap 🎬

Pastor Nick Shaner's sermon "Highs and Lows" delves into the relatable experiences of highs and lows in our faith journeys, drawing parallels with Peter from the Bible. He emphasizes that despite our imperfections and lowest moments, we are not disqualified from continuing in our faith race. The sermon stresses the importance of surrendering our own will and desires, aligning ourselves with the way of the cross as a continual act of submission. Ultimately, Pastor Nick highlights that by surrendering to God and submitting to His will, we can experience a life of hope, freedom, forgiveness, and purpose united with Christ in His death and resurrection.

Ice Breaker 🧊

If you could choose any fictional character to be your roommate, who would it be and why?

Discussion Questions 💬

▼ How can we relate to Peter's highs and lows in our own faith journey?

- Pastor Nick talks about the relatable experiences of highs and lows in our lives and in our faith journeys using the example of Peter from the Bible.
- When have you experienced a high or low in your faith journey, and how did you grow from it?

▼ Why is it important to understand that following Jesus is not about being perfect but about being perfected?

- Pastor Nick emphasizes that our mess-ups and lowest moments do not disqualify us from continuing in our faith race.
- How does this understanding help you persevere in your faith during tough times?

▼ How can we ensure we are submitting to God's will rather than trying to fit God into our own desires?

- Pastor Nick uses the example of Peter's expectations of a powerful Messiah conflicting with Jesus' true role of a suffering Savior.
- Can you think of a time when you tried to fit God into your own desires? How did you learn to submit to His will?

▼ What does it mean to take up our cross and follow Jesus, as described in the sermon?

- Pastor Nick references Dietrich Bonhoeffer's explanation of the need to abandon worldly attachments and surrender ourselves to Christ.
- What does 'taking up your cross' look like in your daily life and how can you practice it?

▼ How can we experience the resurrection life that comes from surrendering and submitting to Christ?

- Pastor Nick describes the resurrection life as one of hope, freedom, forgiveness, and purpose, united with Christ in His death and resurrection.
- In which areas of your life do you need to surrender more fully to experience this resurrection life?

Prayer 🙏

- Ask if anyone has any prayer requests.
- Ask God to help us recognize both the highs and lows in our faith journey and to trust Him through both.
- Pray for the strength to continually cooperate with the Holy Spirit's transformational work in our lives.
- Ask God to help us surrender our will and ways to align more closely with His.