

## Teen Devotion

Year A – Easter 5

He Lives!



**One truth shared:** You will never be more loved than you are right now.

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

**John 14:6**

### Never More Loved Than Now

True story: A young man once asked a spiritual leader how to get to heaven. After a moment of thought, the leader told this young man that the way to get to heaven was to keep the Ten Commandments. All of them.

I don't think your pastor would ever give you that answer. Any Christian out there knows that the way to heaven is only Jesus. That makes it all the more surprising that the spiritual leader mentioned above was none other than Jesus himself.

But the answer Jesus gave this young man was exactly right.

Just as darkness cannot coexist with light, so sinful people cannot coexist with a holy God. You must be perfect, and perfection is spelled out in the commandments. That's the only way to be with God.

What everyone eventually comes to realize is that there's a problem. The perfection required of us is not something we can attain.

The young man mentioned above went away sad because he did not think there was a way for him to be with God. He was right. Nothing we do can atone for the darkness of our sin and make us fit for life with God.

So Jesus became the way for us. He consumed the darkness of your sin when he died on the cross, and he clothed you in his righteousness when he came back to life. The way to God is still to be perfect, but Jesus became the way by providing his perfection for you.

There will be days when you feel unlovable. Something you said, did, or thought will leave you with a guilty feeling, and you won't feel worthy of God's love.

The good news is that the way to God's love was never through what you do. Because of Jesus, you can tell yourself every moment of every day: "I will never be more loved than I am right now."

**Prayer:** Dear Father, thank you for establishing a relationship with me that is not dependent on how good I am. Help me live in the joy of your grace every day. Amen.

# Foundation Teen Facilitators Guide

Year A – Easter 5

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## Never More Loved Than Now

***Starting the Discussion:** This first section is intended to be light and easy, to engage and get the conversation going. Have a little fun with these questions.*

- What would have to happen for a day to be a perfect one for you?
- On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being highly unlikely and 10 being highly likely), rate the possibility of everything falling into place in order for you to experience a perfect day—from the time you woke up to the time you go to bed.

***Connecting:** This section serves as a bridge between the opening conversation and the body of the study/discussion. It should get the group thinking about the topic/text even before they've looked at it.*

- If someone who didn't know Jesus asked you what they should do for everything to be perfect with God, what sort of answer would you give them?
- Even when someone knows that Jesus is the only way to heaven, it is natural for them to think that God's love for them is dependent on their behavior. Why do you think that is?

***Digging In:** Here we want to dig into some texts or the text for the day and see what Scripture says. The questions are meant to be open ended to give a beginning of a scriptural conversation. These are a guide for a spiritual and scriptural conversation.*

- There are many ways that people might try to be right with God, but Jesus is the only way. What alternate ways do you struggle to abandon as you seek to follow Jesus?
- You will never be more loved than you are right now. How would that truth impact a person who... failed a test? Just broke up with their significant other? Is feeling ashamed over a sin?

***Conclusion:** Here we want to wrap up the discussion, perhaps circling back to the "connecting question" above.*

Think of an area of life where you've been pushing yourself too hard or expecting too much from yourself. What would it look like to apply today's topic the next time you find yourself in that moment?