

# SHIFT

## Week 6 - From Rebellion to Surrender

### THE MAIN POINT

This meeting will help students understand that a rebellious attitude has consequences both earthly and eternal. We as humans naturally rebel, because we believe that rebellion leads to freedom. The reality is that surrender and trust in Jesus is actually what sets us free.

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Bible
- Basket/Large container to hold phones
- Balloons (2 per student)
- Candy (2 per student)

### GETTING STARTED

Make sure to set up a basket where everyone can see it before any of the students get there. On the basket will read: 'Please leave phone in basket. Important talk today.' The goal here is to see if the students choose to rebel and keep their phone/hide it or to surrender it over to you by placing it in the basket. Do not make them put it in the basket, just ask "did everyone put it in the basket?" before starting.

Go over the rules of small group time together.

## RULES FOR SMALL GROUP:

**Commitment** - Commit to being at every group meeting (make it a priority!)

**Confidentiality** - What is shared here stays here.

**Be honest or be silent** - don't make up an answer just to have one. Sometimes the most honest answer is no answer, so if you need to, just say pass.

**Respect** - for one another, their thoughts/ideas/opinions (no put downs).

Now, have them share about their keep it up challenge last week. Hand back phones after going over their keep it up challenge.

We've been talking over the last six weeks about our attitudes and how we have a choice when it comes to them. Just like we have a choice when it comes to those attitudes we have already discussed, we have the choice to rebel, which is our final attitude that we'll be going over.

Have students to grab their phones and then share this:

I'm sure not everyone wanted to put their phone in the basket, maybe some didn't even do it. The reason for asking you to put your phones in the basket was to show that even with simple things, rebellion comes up.

For instance:

You have a choice to brush your teeth. You have a choice to do your chores.

But if you choose against it, there will always be a consequence. Your breath will start to stink and people won't want to be around you.

## ACTIVITY

**\*\*Make sure to blow up 2 balloons per student before starting the activity. \*\***

Hand each student a balloon and tell them hold onto it and not toss them around (make sure to have extra balloons in case some pop).

After everyone has a balloon in hand have them stand in a line, shoulder to shoulder, all facing the same direction.

When they are all lined up, the leader will then walk up to each student, one at a time, and ask them if he/she could have their balloon. If they say yes, you give them a piece of candy and if they say no just go onto the next person.

The object here is for the students to see that if they give away their balloon they will benefit from it. Play the game twice so that the ones that said no at first can have a chance to say yes. Then ask:

- Was it hard at first to give up your balloon? Why?
- Why did you end up choosing to surrender your balloon?

## GOING DEEPER

In the Bible, during Jesus's time on earth, Jesus would tell parables/stories to get a point across to his audience. One of them was a story about a father and his two sons.

One day, the younger of the sons demanded his portion of his father's property. He was asking for the 1/3rd of the father's possessions that he would have ordinarily gotten when his father died. That was a BIG deal back then. He was pretty much saying 'dad, you're dead to me. I want my money now.' And the father, being loving, gives his son his share only to see him take off as soon as it was given to him.

Read Luke 15:11-24

- What about this story sticks out to you?
- Can you relate to the younger son?

You see, the son that left had a choice to leave and by doing so he ended up losing everything. He rebelled against all his father had for him, wanting nothing to do with it and choosing to go his own way. He spent it all on things that didn't matter, eventually hitting rock bottom, having nowhere to go. He dishonored his family and thought he would never be accepted again, but when he came back to his father's house, his father ran to him with open arms.

- Who do you think the father represents in this story?

Jesus told that story to demonstrate that the father in the story is our father, God, and the son in the story is you and me.

- What comes to mind after hearing that?
- Do you agree? Why or why not?

Remember, it's a choice we make. A choice that God allows us to make. Just like the game we

played earlier, but our reward is not candy, it's eternal life.

Read John 3:16

The son in this verse is Jesus and He's asking for you to surrender your life to him. Remember, it's your choice to surrender your life to God. He doesn't force it. He wants you to be free and filled with peace. All you have to do is say it with your mouth and believe it in your heart.

● Read Romans 10:9-10

## UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

*This is a time where, as the leader, you get to share a part of your story. Be sure and share about how God has worked in your life. This is also a time for you to get vulnerable with the students.*

Share your testimony. If you've believed in Christ, your whole life then share a time when you rebelled and went your own way. What did it get you? Really be authentic and vulnerable here. Make sure to highlight that God accepted you with open arms.

Note: In sharing the gospel and your testimony, know the high points of the Gospel and be comfortable sharing them. Include these points and weave them into your story as you share.

- God loves you and created you to have a personal relationship with him! (Psalm 139:13-14)
- Even though God wants a relationship, we naturally resist him. Sin is our attitude of ignoring or resisting God. (Romans 3:23) Only through Jesus can our relationship with God be restored. (1 Peter 3:18)
- We personally choose to trust Jesus as Savior and Lord. (John 1:12)
- A decision to follow Jesus begins a life-long journey. (Colossians 2:6)

## TAKE AWAY

Make sure and relay to the students that though all the attitudes that we've gone over are important, this will be the most life changing.

All actions have consequences, just like rebelling has consequences, and no matter what you've done God is waiting for you with open arms.

Since this is the last challenge for this small group I'd like to challenge you to be real about where you're at in life because you have a choice to make. A very serious choice that could change your life in a positive way. Having a relationship with God, through Jesus will benefit your life in a way that is transformational.

- Have you accepted Jesus as your savior? If not, what's holding you back?

Don't be afraid to come to Him. No matter what you've done or what's been done to you, He's waiting for you with open arms!

*Try to meet with each small group member one-on-one now that the group is over, and here where they are in their relationship with Jesus.*