



This week's message was about guilt and how we often let our guilt burry us and hold us prisoner, keeping us from living in freedom like God wants us to live.

- **Can you think of anything from your childhood that brought about a guilty conscience? Does the memory of that incident ever still affect the way you act today? How?**
- (Read: Matt 26:69-75) **What do we find Peter doing in this passage? How do we know Peter experienced guilt at the end of this passage?**
- **How do you think this guilt made Peter feel when he saw Jesus crucified just a few hours later? How would you feel? Do you think this experience caused Peter to deal with different emotions than the other disciples during the three days that Jesus was in the tomb?**
- (Read Luke 24:6-12) **When you consider the guilt that Peter was carrying from his denial of Jesus, what do you think Peter was "wondering" about after the resurrection?**
- (Read John 21:15-19) **What do we see happen in this passage? What do you suppose happened to Peter's guilt as a result of this conversation? What significance did the resurrection have for Peter's guilt?**
- (Psalm 51) **Eric pointed us to David's guilt to help us overcome our own guilt. Is there any source of guilt in your life that you are having trouble releasing to God that your Growth Group can help you pray through and overcome?**



**Growth Groups  
Leader's Travel Guide  
Week of April 15-21, 2007**

Wow! What an exciting Easter we had last week! Some of you know that Eric was praying for 300 to come to Journey. I know we didn't have that many show up, but we had several visitors. Some of these visitors have specifically said that they would like to come back! We are not about attaining big numbers so we can brag about them . . . we see each number as an individual who is being touched toward being a passionate Christ-follower through Journey Church. As a result, we praise God for bringing us a number of visitors, no matter how many of them there are. Especially when we have the opportunity to begin investing in their lives over a period of time . . .

Growth Groups are always one of our primary tools for solidifying this investment. Therefore, it is essential that we help each person who chooses to be a part of Journey Church get plugged in to the appropriate Growth Group. We are convinced that momentum is building in all areas at Journey Church, and we don't want to lose that momentum. Therefore, Eric and I have decided that we will continue Growth Groups through the summer, but cut back to every other week from June 1 until the new school year begins. Also, we are on the verge of needing at least one additional group. We will be "relaunching" each of the groups sometime soon through "Connection Parties." We have not yet decided whether we will do this before the end of the school year or at the end of the summer, but be aware that a relaunch to include new people will be coming soon!

I already introduced the idea of a relaunch to my group (the couples' group), because they will be the most affected by the creation of a new group. I encourage you to instill the idea of reproduction in your group to prepare them for the future. My goal is to get us to some level of accountability to be reproducing groups as soon as possible. I'm not sure what that accountability will look like, but I know it begins with us. If we are not seeking to connect with people and build our groups, we can't expect everyone else to do it, either. Also, we need to be looking around our groups for potential leaders to take over when new groups are needed.

Also, in case you haven't heard, I have created a blog: [apk4jc.wordpress.com](http://apk4jc.wordpress.com). I will use this blog for several reasons including personal thoughts and work related stuff. However, my primary reason for creating the blog is to communicate with Journey Church folks about the vision for Journey Church, especially as it relates to the Growth Groups. I will probably be posting these Travel Guides on my blog so you can download them, since some emails bounce when I try to send a PDF attached.

God bless, and thank you for your willingness to serve and to lead!

Andrew



## Leader's Travel Guide

Week of April 15-21, 2007

This week's message was about guilt and how we often let our guilt burry us and hold us prisoner, keeping us from living in freedom like God wants us to live.

- **Can you think of anything from your childhood that brought about a guilty conscience? Does the memory of that incident ever still affect the way you act today? How?**

This is a pretty personal question to start with this week. You may want to have a humorous guilt story like Eric's bottle story ready to lighten the load of the question a little bit. Give it a moment to soak in. If someone opens up and shares something significant, seize the opportunity to minister to the person. If nothing comes up fairly quickly, move on.

- (Read: Matt 26:69-75) **What do we find Peter doing in this passage? How do we know Peter experienced guilt at the end of this passage?**

This passage is the story of Peter's denial. He really heaps it on himself, even calling down curses on himself. At the end of the passage, we get a glimpse of his guilty conscience as the scene closes with him running out and weeping bitterly.

- **How do you think this guilt made Peter feel when he saw Jesus crucified just a few hours later? How would you feel? Do you think this experience caused Peter to deal with different emotions than the other disciples during the three days that Jesus was in the tomb?**

This series of questions is really an exercise to get your group members thinking about how they deal with guilt and how they handle their own shortcomings and failures. If comments are forthcoming, feel free to camp here a while and let your folks talk and consider these questions. They may learn a lot about themselves as they put themselves in a third-party light as "Peter."

- (Read Luke 24:6-12) **When you consider the guilt that Peter was carrying from his denial of Jesus, what do you think Peter was "wondering" about after the resurrection?**

This question is really just speculation, so be careful where it goes, but it helps to emphasize the affects of guilt when we have to carry it for an extended period of time. Additionally, this question sets us up for Peter's restoration following the resurrection in the next passage:

- (Read John 21:15-19) **What do we see happen in this passage? What do you suppose happened to Peter's guilt as a result of this conversation? What significance did the resurrection have for Peter's guilt?**

Preachers have pulled this passage apart trying to get all sorts of little details out of this passage, from the use of the different Greek words for "love," to the difference between a lamb and sheep, and who knows what else . . . Don't let these thoughts overrun the bottom line: **Because of the resurrection, Jesus had the opportunity to seek out Peter, forgive him, and restore him to a right relationship and an effective ministry. The resurrection made ALL the difference for Peter!**

- (Psalm 51) **Eric pointed us to David's guilt to help us overcome our own guilt. Is there any source of guilt in your life that you are having trouble releasing to God that your Growth Group can help you pray through and overcome?**

I strongly encourage your to revisit Eric's breakdown of this passage:

1. CONFESS (v1-7) your sin and allow God to REMOVE your guilt (v9)
2. Allow God to RENEW your thoughts (v10) and RESTORE your joy (v12)
3. Depend on God to bring about genuine REPENTANCE through a changed heart (v17)
4. Open the doors necessary for God to REBUILD your life in whatever area necessary because of the sin (v18)