



COMMUNICATOR GUIDE

Undeclared / Week 2

[PRELUDE](#)

[SOCIAL](#)

[WORSHIP](#)

[STORY](#)

[GROUPS](#)

[HOME](#)

SERIES SUMMARY

A three- week series on Easter.

WEEK 1: Because of Jesus, separation is defeated.

WEEK 2: Because of Jesus, sin is defeated.

WEEK 3: Because of Jesus, death is defeated.

SCRIPTURE

Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2 NIV).

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV).

TEACHING OUTLINE

SCRIPTURE

Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2 NIV).

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV).

INTRODUCTION

- We all love the feeling of being undefeated, but being defeated is something we avoid.
- Tell a personal story about a time you felt defeated by something.

TENSION

- Even if we feel defeated by small things, the feelings that come with them can seem really big.
- When we're defeated by or struggling with big things, they can be hard to overcome. Even though we've tried to defeat them, they somehow keep defeating us.
- Maybe defeat has made you feel ashamed, embarrassed, or like you've failed. You're not alone; we all have things that we struggle with.
- There's a way to defeat the things we're struggling with instead of letting them defeat us.

TRUTH

- Easter is all about celebrating Jesus dying to take the punishment for the mistakes and sins of mankind.
- In the book of Hebrews, we read that when we're fighting to stay focused on our faith or are feeling defeated, we should fix our eyes on Jesus. He's the One who willingly endured the pain, shame, and defeat set before us. (Hebrews 12:2)
- When it comes to what we remember and celebrate at Easter, there are two things to know:
 - Jesus died for us. He paid the punishment of sin so that we'd never have to.
 - Jesus died to defeat sin, so sin wouldn't defeat us. Jesus took our sin and gave us His perfect record and good-standing before God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

APPLICATION

- Because of Jesus, sin is defeated. Sin doesn't have the power to defeat us anymore.
- We can access the freedom from sin in our lives by:
 - Defining what's trying to defeat us.
 - Taking a step to defeat it.
 - Asking God to help us remember who we are and how He sees us.

LANDING

- We all mess up, but we have freedom from sin because of Jesus.
- What's one thing in my life that's holding me back?

YOUR STUDENTS

In a conversation like this, it will be easy for students to think outwardly rather than look inwardly. When talking about sins, they're going to be tempted to name names or share specific scenarios that *don't* have anything to do with them. Why? Because they may not have the self-awareness to see their own sins clearly, or, if they do, they find it easier to talk generally about others than specifically about themselves. Do your best to speak broadly and steer the conversation away from any names, scenarios, or gossip.

INTERACTIVE: SWAPPING SHIRTS

OVERVIEW

For this Interactive, you'll use props (oversized button-up shirts) to explain how Jesus defeated our sins with His death and resurrection.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- 2 oversized, white or light-colored button-up shirts (The shirts should be the same color. One should be a shirt that you don't mind destroying.)
- A dark colored shirt that you don't mind getting stained
- Scissors
- A variety of materials that can stain the light-colored shirt (Note: You'll need at least 5 different materials.) Here are some suggestions:
- Bold, permanent marker
- Ketchup
- Chocolate pudding
- Cold coffee
- Mustard
- Spaghetti sauce
- Food coloring
- A volunteer to play the role of Jesus
- Paper towels for cleanup
- A small table

HOW-TO

While the idea of Jesus dying for our sins is something your students may be familiar with, it's actually an abstract concept that they may struggle to fully comprehend. This Interactive will provide a powerful visual to represent what it looks like to have the weight of our sins erased by Jesus' death and resurrection.

To do this, you'll use different materials to stain a light-colored shirt as you talk about sin's effect on our lives. You'll then have a volunteer play the role of Jesus, who not only removes sin (represented by the dirty shirt) but also trades His perfect standing before God (represented by a clean shirt) for our sin.

Before your large group time, put the table on stage and place all of the items you'll use to stain the shirt on top. Right before your lesson, put on one light-colored shirt and ask the volunteer who is playing Jesus to wear the other shirt. Check out the Truth section of your Teaching Script for details on how to use this Interactive to illustrate the great sacrifice Jesus made for us all.

TIPS:

- Be sure both button-down shirts are very oversized so that they can easily be taken on and off.
 - As the Communicator, you'll need to wear a dark-colored shirt underneath the light-colored shirt. The materials you use to stain the light-colored shirt may bleed through to the shirt underneath, so pick one that you don't mind getting stained!
-



TEACHING SCRIPT

Undefeated / Week 2

[PRELUDE](#)

[SOCIAL](#)

[WORSHIP](#)

[STORY](#)

[GROUPS](#)

[HOME](#)

BOTTOM LINE

BECAUSE OF JESUS, SIN IS DEFEATED

INTRODUCTION

3 MINUTES

Happy Easter everybody! We're celebrating the season here in our student ministry with a series called Undefeated. And speaking of, did you know that I'm undefeated? I'm the reigning champion at [insert a random or funny skill or talent you have, like bubble gum blowing, Twinkie eating, the game of Operation, making babies cry, etc.] It's true! In that one part of my life, no one can defeat me!

You know why I think we all love being the undefeated champion? Because we know what it's like to feel totally and utterly defeated. You know, when the score at the soccer game is 12-0, and you are the 0? And it's only the first half? Defeat is something we've all experienced, and most of the time, it's something we never want to experience again!

TELL A PERSONAL STORY

Tell a story from your own life that illustrates the following ideas . . .

- Talk about a time you felt defeated by something.
 - Try to keep it light and silly, like the time you couldn't finish the rap in the school talent show, or got showed up on the basketball court by your younger cousin, or failed miserably at baking that birthday cake for your mom.
 - The goal here is to touch on how being defeated by anything makes us feel.
-

TENSION

2 MINUTES

What about you? When was the last time you felt the pain of defeat? When you didn't pass that test you studied so hard for? When you tried out for the team but didn't make the cut? When you put yourself out there only to discover your crush didn't like you back? When you scrolled through social media to find your entire friend group was hanging out without you?

Sure, those may not seem like huge things to some of you, but the feelings that come with them are pretty big. The hurt feelings, the disappointment, the loneliness—defeat brings with it all that and more sometimes.

And then, there's the other kind of defeat—the kind we don't talk about and try to keep secret. The kind that feels bigger, and scarier, and all the more difficult to handle. Maybe you've tried to stop self-harming. Or struggled to avoid looking at those pictures on the Internet each night in your room. Maybe you've wanted to quit partying so hard on the weekends. Or stop crossing the boundaries you set in your relationship with your boyfriend or girlfriend. Whatever that thing is for you, you can't seem to beat it. **You've tried to defeat it, but somehow, it keeps defeating you.**

And maybe, all that defeat has left you **feeling ashamed, or embarrassed, or even like you've failed in some way.** It's left you wondering, *"Am I always going to feel like this? Will I ever be able to defeat the things that feel like they're defeating me?"*

Well, here's the truth: **You're not alone in this feeling. We all have things that we struggle with.** We all battle against habits or mistakes we know aren't good for us—things that threaten to defeat us and sins we struggle with. So, if you're feeling defeated by your circumstances, or your habits, or some bad choices you just can't seem to stop making, hang in there. Because the good news for all of us is that there's another way. **There's a way to defeat the things we're struggling with instead of letting them defeat us.**

TRUTH

7 MINUTES

During this time of year, churches all over the world talk a lot about Jesus because He's at the center of the Easter story. Jesus, the Son of God, came to Earth to live among us. He is God in a human body, living and breathing, and He showed us how to live while He was here. Then, Jesus did something amazing for all of us. He willingly died a really terrible and painful death on the cross to take the punishment for the mistakes and sins of all mankind. Why? So that we could be close to God again!

Now you might be thinking, *"Easter is about celebrating the death of Jesus? Weird!"* Well, that's only part of the story. We don't celebrate His physical death, but instead, we celebrate what Jesus defeated when He died. We celebrate what He chose to do out of love for us.

There's a passage in a book of the Bible called Hebrews that I want to look at today. The author actually wrote Hebrews to encourage believers in the early church to keep going and fighting in the face of difficult times. In other words, the author was encouraging them not to be defeated. Here's what the author wrote:

Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2 NIV).

So, to encourage these believers who were struggling against feelings of defeat, the writer of Hebrews reminded them of one thing: Jesus and what He did on the cross. When they were fighting to stay focused on their faith, or feeling defeated and disappointed, or just unsure what the next step should be, the writer of Hebrews reminded them (and us!) to **fix their eyes on Jesus**.

When it comes to what we remember and celebrate at Easter—the death and resurrection of Jesus—there are two big things I want you to know:

1. Jesus died for us!

He endured the pain on the cross to pay the punishment for sin so that we'd never have to. Let me explain . . .

INTERACTIVE: Swapping Shirts

This is where you'll use two oversized button-down shirts to explain how Jesus defeated our sins with His death and resurrection. Check out your Communicator Guide for details.

Let's say this shirt I'm wearing shows the effect of our sins. [Motion to the shirt you're wearing.] What exactly is sin? That may not be a word we use a lot, but it's something we experience every day. It's the things we do that don't honor God. The choices we make that put things between us and God. Sin is choosing to do the wrong thing when we know the right thing to do. Sin is when we hurt other people. Sin is when we hurt ourselves. Sin is all the ways the world is broken. When there's abuse. When there's violence, and hate, and evil. That's where sin comes in.

And when we choose to sin? Well, it's something that stains our souls. Just like it stains this shirt. [Motion to the shirt you're wearing.] Let's say that as you're going through life, you choose to do something you know God wouldn't want you to do. Maybe you spread a secret that a friend asked you to keep to yourself. [Make a large mark/stain on your shirt.] Maybe you lied to your parents when they asked you who you were hanging out with at the skate park. [Make a large mark/stain on your shirt using a different method than before. Continue doing this for the remaining examples in this paragraph.] Maybe you cheated on that math test. Or posted a really mean comment on Instagram about a kid at school. Or maybe you stole the jeans you've been wanting from [insert name of a store that's popular with your students].

Every bad thought we've had [carefully cut the shirt with scissors], every bad thing we've been motivated by [cut the shirt], every choice that wasn't God's best for us [cut the shirt]—every sin makes a mark and does damage. And because of that, we're often left in rags and tatters. [Motion to the destroyed shirt.]

But it gets worse. Here's another awful thing about sin. Not only does it stain our souls, it has a cost. The cost is death. That's the price of it. We would have to give our lives to pay for our sins. And that would mean that we'd spend forever separated—forever apart—from God.

But God didn't want that. That's why He sent Jesus. Jesus died to pay the price for our sins so that we'd never have to. He gave His life to pay for our sins so we wouldn't have to give ours. [Take off the tattered shirt and hand it to the volunteer you designated to play Jesus. The volunteer will throw the shirt on the ground so that it's visible to the audience.]

But that's not all.

2. Jesus died to defeat sin, so sin won't defeat you.

Besides paying the price for our sins, something else incredible happened with Jesus' death and resurrection. This is huge. Take a look at how Paul put it:

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV).

So not only did Jesus take all of our sin and pay the cost of it with His death [motion to the shirt on the ground], the Bible says that Jesus took our sin ["Jesus" will take off His perfect shirt and put on the tattered shirt] and became "sin for us." We sinned, and He didn't. But still, Jesus took our place.

And that's not all. Jesus did something even more unbelievable. He took on our sin so—don't miss this—that "we might become the righteousness of God." While He took on our sin, He gave us His perfect righteousness in its place. ["Jesus" will give His perfect shirt to you, and you'll put it on.] Jesus gave us His perfectly clear record. [Motion to the clean shirt.] His perfect good-standing before God. Jesus traded his NO SIN for our sin. Jesus traded His life for yours.

Right now, before God, you have Jesus' perfect record. [Motion to the clean shirt you're wearing.] Your sins have been washed away, and you stand completely and fully perfect before God—just like Jesus!

That's why Jesus died for us. So when you feel the pain, the weight, and the struggle of sin—and you will because we live in a broken world—know that it has no say in your life. Jesus paid for it. And He gave you His right standing before God. **Because of Jesus, sin is defeated.** [Motion to the clean shirt.]

APPLICATION

2 MINUTES

When we choose to follow Jesus, we're choosing to follow the One who defeated sin. The One who made a way for sin to no longer defeat us. **Because of Jesus, sin is defeated.**

That means that the struggle is over. The pain, and disappointment, and shame from the mistakes, or choices, or circumstances that have weighed you down in the past are gone. **They don't have the power to defeat you anymore.**

Why? **Because sin is defeated.** And that means you're free from the hold of it in your life.

So what can you do to access that freedom from sin in your life? Well, I think there are a few things.

1. **Define what's trying to defeat you.** Recognize the habits, or choices, or circumstances that are holding you back or weighing you down. Is it a behavior you keep going back to that's harmful? A person or relationship that isn't healthy? A secret choice you're making that you don't want anyone to know about? Whatever it is, acknowledge that it's making you feel defeated right now.
2. **Take a step to defeat it.** Once you've defined what's defeating you, you have to take a step toward defeating it. The best place to start is by confessing it to the God who defeated sin for all of us. Maybe your first step is to ask God for help or to tell Him what you're struggling with. He's the One who took away the weight of those things in our lives, so inviting Him into it is the best place to start.

Then, maybe you need to set better boundaries with people or things that tempt you toward that struggle. Maybe it's to ask a trusted friend or Small Group Leader for help to keep walking away from what's defeating you. Maybe it's to ask your Small Group Leader for Bible verses or prayers to help you through your struggles. Or maybe it's to memorize a verse or listen to a song that helps you remember the freedom you have in Jesus.

- 3. Ask God to help you remember who you are and how He sees you.** Sometimes when we're struggling, undefeated is the last thing we feel. But, it's our reality. It's who we really are. Ask God to help you remember what's true about you because of Jesus. Ask Him to help you remember that you didn't earn your perfect standing before God, and you can't fight to keep it. And then, ask Him for help to defeat what's holding you down. He wants you to live in the freedom He bought for you.

Remember, **because of Jesus, sin is defeated.** That doesn't mean that we won't still be tempted to sin or struggle with it in our lives. But it does mean that we can take it to Jesus and let Him help us defeat it. It means that sin doesn't have the final say in our lives and in our hearts.

LANDING

1 MINUTE

All of us have messed up. Every single one of us. But on Easter, we celebrate that **because of Jesus, sin is defeated!** We celebrate the freedom we have because of Jesus. It's a freedom we want each and every one of you to experience. We want all of you to live undefeated!

So as you go to Small Group, I want you to think about this question: **What's one thing in my life that's holding me back?**



TRANSITION INTO SMALL GROUPS
