



It's Hard to Dance with the Devil on Your Back | April 12, 2017

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Easter is the culmination of predictions and promises, the struggle of human experience, and ultimate victory.

The best way to celebrate is through song.

Key Verse

1 Corinthians 15:55-57 (MSG)

Who got the last word, oh, Death? Oh, Death, who's afraid of you now?

It was sin that made death so frightening and law-code guilt that gave sin its leverage, its destructive power.

But now in a single victorious stroke of Life, all three—sin, guilt, death—are gone, the gift of our Master, Jesus Christ. Thank God!

Discussion

Florence and the Machine wrote a song called, "Shake it out." It perfectly describes the many things with which we struggle and ends with what feels like a perfect Easter moment. In this discussion guide we are going to walk through sets of lyrics and pause to reflect on our lives and those around us.

Lyrics: Regrets collect like old friends. Here to relive your darkest moments.

Life Application: A couple who has lived through infidelity or broken trust find that regrets can be overwhelming, and the past can creep up on us when we least expect it forcing us to relive the darkest moments. Grace has the ability to help us cope and overcome.

1. Have you ever had a moment from the past that haunts you and still finds a way to creep into your life?

Lyrics: Every demon wants his pound of flesh, but I like to keep some things to myself.

Life Application: A friend who has struggled with addiction struggles to face the demons inside because it feels easier to keep it to himself. Jesus's sacrifice eliminates the control these demons have over us and sharing these struggles causes the demons to have less power.

2. What could a group of people help you overcome? Who needs you to help them overcome something?

Lyrics: I'm done with this graceless heart so tonight I'm gonna to cut it out and then restart.

Life Application: A friend had a health scare and decided to stop the cycle of brokenness and took the first step in repairing a difficult family situation. It wasn't perfect, but it was a start to restart.

3. Who do you need to forgive? What steps can you take to repair a broken relationship?

Lyrics: Given half the chance, would I take any of it back.

Life Application: A friend who seeks thrills to fill a void and to feel alive. Sometimes we still miss our old lives, but much of what we have done to be happy has been the result of lacking Jesus.

4. What types of things do you do or have you done to feel whole? What things about your past do you miss?

Lyrics: It's always darkest before the dawn.

Life Application: Jesus finds himself in his darkest moment in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-39). He asks God to take the burden of death from Him.

5. What burdens are weighing you down? What things are suffocating you?

Lyrics: I'm ready to suffer and ready to hope.

Life Application: Jesus gets mocked and beaten and mocked again (Matthew 27:27-31). He suffers on our behalf.

6. What is your biggest insecurity? What are your weak points?

Lyrics: It's a shot in the dark. Straight at my throat. You're looking for heaven but you found the devil in me.

Life Application: Jesus clearly feels the oppression of His suffering, the fear of hell, and complete humanity when He cries out to God, "Why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:45-46). Jesus is God and human at the same time and it is clear He begins to feel the separation of God.

7. What are your biggest disappointments with God? What anger do you hold toward Him?

Lyrics: It's hard to dance with the devil on your back. Shake him off.

Life Application: Jesus rises again after experiencing death and suffering the depths of our sins (Matthew 28: 1-10). It's impossible for us to get to God without Jesus first defeating death. Jesus shook the devil off once and for all.

8. What freedom do you feel knowing that Jesus suffered on your behalf?

9. What grace can you extend to others because of the grace extended to you?

What's Next?

1 Corinthians 15:55-57 celebrates Jesus's victory over death. The things that kept us from experiencing life to its fullest extent—sin, guilt, and death—no longer have power over our lives. When we experience hardship and difficulties, they are very real and painful. However, Jesus went there with us. He took all of those burdens upon himself so we could experience greatness. It's hard to dance with the devil on your back, so Jesus shook him off. Live as if the price for all your pain and brokenness has already been paid because Jesus paid it in full.