



## WWYD: Shamed | October 3, 2018

### Discussion Guide

#### The Scoop

Most, if not all of us, never wake up in the morning ready or excited to blow up our lives. And yet, it happens. And when it does, what does our faith ask from us?

#### Key Verses

##### 1 Peter 5:8-11 (NIV)

*"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same*

*kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen."*

#### Discussion

In our world today, it can be really easy to mark someone for either how they've acted or what they've done. We jump all over them with judgment and opinion, usually before we even have all the details. We tag them with something that we believe they can never overcome, whether a past, a mistake or something that they're going through in the present. And the worst part is that now we have access to spread that information as far and as fast as possible.

1. Do you know someone (or have you experienced yourself) who's been victimized by severe public judgment? How would you describe that person before/after the incident? How do you think they feel about the criticism they've faced?
2. How do you think social media has enabled this behavior? In what ways have you seen it in your own life or your networks? What are some of the consequences?

Even though it's opposed to what culture may suggest, our faith actually requires us to do something different with that information. It asks us to lean in and care for people. While it may be easier to shame someone or bash their character or family, what we're really asked to do is hold back our judgment and care for the victims, families and even the people who made a mistake. The truth is, none of us are immune from big mistakes. And so our faith asks us to set aside our pride and recognize that these people are human, just like we are.

3. Why do you think it's so hard to act contrary to what we see in culture when it comes to judgment and criticism?
4. How do you think faith in Jesus is related to extending forgiveness and grace, even when we don't feel like it?

In 1 Peter 5:8-11, we are reminded that the devil is poised to pounce at all times. When we are tempted to attack others before considering our words and actions, that's not the design that God has for relationship, but instead the sneaky work of the devil. And the devil would love nothing more than to catch us off guard, unarmed with the truth of what we're called to do as Christians. So instead of giving into the temptation of spreading hate or judgment, we are called to instead hold fast and tight to our faith.

5. Have you been able to perceive the devil at work in your own life, as you are tempted to judge and criticize?
6. What are the ways that we can stand firm and hold steadfast in our faith? What has worked for you as you've encountered other challenges in the past?

#### What's Next?

When you see headlines and stories that exploit people's mistakes and engage with judgment and criticism, what would it look like to put yourself in those people's shoes? Think about their kids, their spouse, and the people they influence. While there are certain tragic things that happen in this world that we need to know about, pause long enough that you consider your faith first when you share or engage in conversation.

This week, as you live out your faith, think about what you would do in a moment of shame or bad place of judgment. If somebody was criticizing you and taking it out on your family, what would you do differently? Lean on your faith and ask God for forgiveness in places of judgment. Ask him to guide you in a way that would point people to who He is.