

Small Group Bible Study

Plastic Christianity Week 3

Main Theme

This week exposes how pressure and culture can slowly shape our faith if we're not anchored in truth. Even strong believers like Peter struggled with compromise, reminding us that following Jesus requires daily surrender, not occasional conviction.

Opening Prayer

God, help us see where we've been shaped by pressure instead of truth. Give us courage to follow You fully. Amen.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

- Where do you feel the most pressure in your life right now; work, relationships, expectations, or something else?

SCRIPTURE STUDY

1. Read Galatians 1:10; Galatians 2:11-14

Paul draws a clear line: you can't live to please both God and people. Then he calls out Peter publicly for compromising under pressure. Peter knew the truth, lived the truth, but in a moment of pressure, he stepped back. This is the tension. Knowing truth doesn't make you immune to compromise.

- What stands out to you in these passages?
- Why do you think Peter changed his behavior when others showed up?
- What does this reveal about the power of pressure and influence?
- Where do you feel tension between pleasing God and pleasing people?
- Why is compromise often subtle and not obvious at first?
- What would it look like to choose God in those moments of pressure?

2. Read Matthew 16:13-23

In one moment, Peter declares Jesus as the Messiah. In the very next moment, he rebukes Jesus and is corrected sharply. This shows how quickly we can shift from alignment with God to thinking from a human perspective.

- What do you notice about Peter in these two moments?

- How can someone be so right and then so wrong so quickly?
- What does Jesus mean when He says Peter has “human concerns”?
- Where do you see yourself thinking more from a human perspective than God’s?
- Why is it dangerous to let emotions or comfort shape our response to truth?
- What would it look like to align your thinking with God’s truth this week?

3. Read Matthew 26:69-75; Acts 4:8-12

Peter denies Jesus out of fear, then later boldly proclaims Him in front of the same kind of opposition. This shows both the reality of failure and the power of transformation.

- What differences do you see between Peter in these two passages?
- What role do fear and pressure play in his denial?
- What changed in Peter that gave him boldness in Acts?
- How does this encourage you when you fall short?
- Where are you tempted to shrink back instead of stand firm?
- What would bold faith look like in your current situation?

3. Read Galatians 2:20-21; Luke 9:23

Paul reminds us that following Jesus means dying to ourselves daily. This is not a one-time decision, it’s an ongoing surrender. Compromise often happens when we stop living surrendered.

- What does it mean to be “crucified with Christ”?
- Why is daily surrender necessary and not just a one-time choice?
- How does identity in Christ help us resist compromise?
- Where are you holding on to control instead of surrendering?
- Why is following Jesus often difficult in a broken world?
- What is one area where you need to take up your cross this week?

SERMON RECAP QUESTIONS

- Where do you feel the most “heat and pressure” in your life right now?
- How have you seen compromise show up in subtle ways in your faith?
- Do you ever confuse grace with permission to compromise?
- Who in your life has permission to speak truth into you?
- What would change if you truly lived from your identity in Christ every day?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- Where are you currently feeling pressure to compromise your faith, and what is one specific step you will take this week to stand firm in truth?

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, help us stand firm in truth even when it's hard. Surround us with people who will speak truth, and remind us who we are in You. Amen.