

## Discussion Questions for the week of September 18



**BIG IDEA:** Just as a magician chooses to reveal something only when he wants to reveal something, we tend to “put on a show” with our lives and not be identified in the freedom of Jesus Christ. We make it seem like everything is ok, but it is just an illusion, we put on a fake smile or live in a false identity. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians that we are new creations, “the old has gone, the new has come.” We can live in freedom if we stop living the illusion and be identified in Christ.

Everyone feels shame. Everyone has something they are trying to hide. In our sin, hurt, sadness, shame, etc. we try to cover ourselves to hide from the world. But God has us covered by the blood of his son Jesus. We don't have to hold on to our shame and live the illusion any more.

### ICE BREAKER:

Do you know any magic tricks?

### DISCUSSION:

1. Read Genesis 3:1-13. This is the story of the fall, when sin came into the world. Out of their sin and shame, what was their reaction?  
*They covered themselves and hid from God*
2. Why do we try to cover and hide?  
*Sin, shame, hurt, disappointment, embarrassment, sorrow, fear, insecurity, secrets, worry*
3. What are some ways that we cover ourselves to hide from our shame, hurt, sadness, etc.? What is a mask you put on to disguise what's reality?  
*Lie, blame shift, pride, false identity, humor, hurt others, push people away, busyness, smile, "I'm fine", minimize, feeding stereotypes (shyness, loud guy, etc.), laziness, self-righteousness.*
4. When you sin, what is your natural way to respond? Why?  
*To cover - lie, blame others, get angry, beat yourself up, etc.*
5. Read 1 John 1:5-9. What does God call us to do? Why is that so hard for us to do?  
*Confess our sin and live as children of the light.*
6. Not only are we called to be children of the Light and live in the light, but we are told that being known by one another will heal. James 5:16. Why would God call us to confess to one another?  
*Leaders you can share too how you are known and accountable to your community and then also how you've found forgiveness from them. Ask how that could become culture for your group.*
7. If you were at Wake on Sunday, did you give your card away to someone else? How did it go? If you didn't, who are you going to give it to this week.  
*\*Leaders\* - Help students understand what confession looks like and that we are not just trying to get people to know their stuff but so that they will be known.*

### APPLICATION:

8. Everyone feels shame. Everyone has something to hide. We all have sins, secrets, hurts, worries, and struggles that we are ashamed of. This is an incredible opportunity to be held accountable and be community to each other. Where do you feel shame that you need to bring into the light?
9. How can you live more identified in our freedom in Jesus instead of covering yourself to hide your shame? Be specific.
10. Where in scripture does God call us to live in the light? Take a moment to search the scriptures and not just “search” on your iPhone.