

YOU'RE
NOT
FAR

The text is written in a bold, hand-drawn, black font. The words 'YOU'RE', 'NOT', and 'FAR' are stacked vertically. A horizontal arrow is drawn underneath the word 'NOT', pointing to the right.

Week 7: The End of the Beginning

We all have embarrassing moments we can laugh about—later. There are shameful moments that we would give anything to undo. But while our pasts remind us, they don't have to define us.

Discussion Questions

1. What are some characteristics of someone who knows they are forgiven?
2. Read **Mark 14:66–72**.
 - What stands out to you?
 - Do you ever wonder if God could really forgive you for *everything*?
3. Read **John 21:1–19**.
 - What stands out to you?
 - Notice the invitation Jesus extends to Peter in verse 19. What did that represent for Peter?
4. In his letter to first-century Christians, most of whom he never met, Peter writes: “He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross...” Peter was convinced that Jesus’s death paid for your sin. What convinced him? Are you convinced?

Changing Your Mind

“Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

“What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them.

“Crucify him!” they shouted.

“Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

—Mark 15:9–15 (NIV)

The kingdom of God is near, and everyone is invited to participate.