



When Well-Meaning People Interrupt Your Plans

## HOW DO YOU TYPICALLY RESPOND TO INTERRUPTIONS?

### The POINT ➤

God-ordained interruptions require a sensitive heart.

#### ➤ LUKE 8:40-56

<sup>40</sup> Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. <sup>41</sup> And there came a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue. And falling at Jesus' feet, he implored him to come to his house, <sup>42</sup> for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As Jesus went, the people pressed around him. <sup>43</sup> And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all her living on physicians, she could not be healed by anyone. <sup>44</sup> She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased. <sup>45</sup> And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!" <sup>46</sup> But Jesus said, "Someone touched me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me." <sup>47</sup> And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him,

and how she had been immediately healed. <sup>48</sup> And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace." <sup>49</sup> While he was still speaking, someone from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." <sup>50</sup> But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well." <sup>51</sup> And when he came to the house, he allowed no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. <sup>52</sup> And all were weeping and mourning for her, but he said, "Do not weep, for she is not dead but sleeping." <sup>53</sup> And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. <sup>54</sup> But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." <sup>55</sup> And her spirit returned, and she got up at once. And he directed that something should be given her to eat. <sup>56</sup> And her parents were amazed, but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.



# THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

## FACT:

There are more mobile phones than people in our world. In 2022, the global population was about 7.95 billion people with 8.58 billion mobile phone subscriptions.<sup>1</sup>



## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

God loves all people, regardless of ethnicity or status, and desires that we would all turn to Him for salvation, and He demonstrated His love by sending Jesus to bear the penalty for our sin on the cross.

Sometimes when I'm doing meaningful things, like reading for school or studying to teach the Bible, one of my kids wants attention and interrupts me. My natural response, more times than I'd like to admit, is to get annoyed. Even when I'm doing something totally meaningless, like watching reels on my phone, and one of my kids interrupts, my response is usually the same: I am slightly peeved by others ignoring my preferences. However, me being annoyed was really the only inappropriate thing.

Americans spend on average five hours and sixteen minutes per day on their phones, scrolling through social media feeds, watching reels or YouTube videos, or playing games.<sup>2</sup> If we're honest, much of this is a waste of time. Yet we still don't like to be interrupted. We would all do well to understand that the people in our lives matter more than essentially anything else.

In our passage, Jesus was surrounded by many people who were pressing in on Him and wanting His attention. While Jesus was on His way to help a desperate man, He was interrupted by another woman in the crowd. Even though Jesus was busy, He paused and offered His full attention.

## LUKE 8:40-42

**1** Why was it so important that Jesus was intentional with every moment?

**2** What can we learn from the ways Jesus interacted with the people He encountered?



## LUKE 8:43-48

**3** How did the woman's bleeding affect her life?

**4** Why do you think Jesus responded with compassion rather than addressing the woman's violation of the law?

**5** How is God calling you to relate to others in view of this story?

## LUKE 8:49-56

**6** When have you struggled with God's timeline and wanted Him to hurry to meet a need in your life?

**7** When have you felt like a struggle in your life was beyond hope?

**8** How has Jesus ministered personally and powerfully to you?

*Jesus shows this kind of love and compassion to us, and in turn, He calls us to love others in this same way. #BSFLInterruptions*



# LIVE IT OUT



## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

*God loves all people, regardless of ethnicity or status, and desires that we would all turn to Him for salvation, and He demonstrated His love by sending Jesus to bear the penalty for our sin on the cross.*

Crowds continually followed Jesus, and a never-ending stream of needy people clamored for His attention. Jesus was a well-respected rabbi and could have simply waved them off and carried on His way, but He didn't. Jesus saw the value in every person, and He was happy to serve those who came to Him in humility and faith.

## > CHRIST

We might sometimes feel like we don't deserve to go to Jesus or that He's annoyed by our needs and prayers, especially when we've made bad choices. The truth is that, because of our sin, we don't deserve Jesus's attention and love. However, we don't come to Him according to our own goodness but by the righteousness of Jesus.

**9** This week, look up and memorize 2 Corinthians 5:21.

**10** Take a moment to say a prayer of gratitude, thanking Jesus for giving you His love and attention.

GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

**PEOPLE**

FAMILY

COMMUNITY  
& WORLD

## > COMMUNITY

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Who do you know who is facing a personal crisis? Maybe the struggle is physical, spiritual, or emotional, or maybe it's a struggle with relationships in the family.

**11** This week, choose to interrupt your schedule, slow down, and provide support and encouragement to one or more of these individuals.



**12** Pray that Jesus will meet their needs and make God's love real to them.

## > CULTURE

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Jairus's daughter died, and everyone but Jesus thought there was no hope for her. And, in a certain sense, they weren't wrong, for death is final. However, Jesus has power over death, and where the world says there is no hope, Jesus brings life.

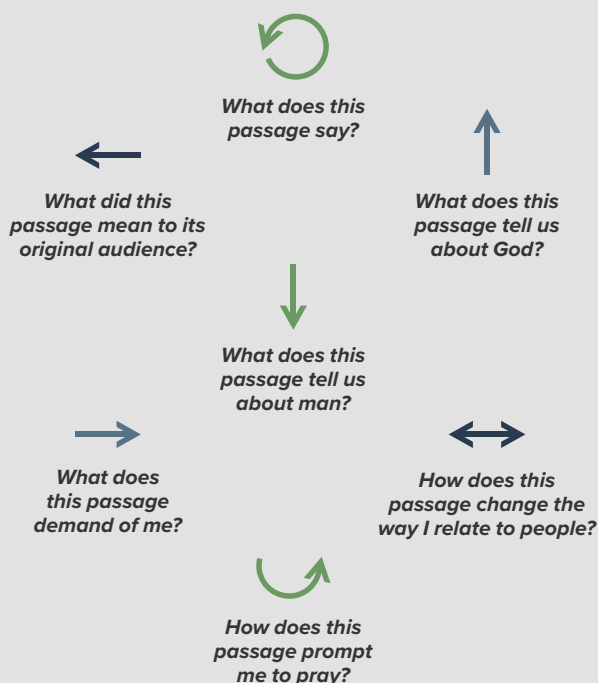
**13** This week, share Jairus's story with a non-believing friend. Point out that Jesus loves us enough to go out of His way to meet our needs.

**14** Share also that Jesus has the power to raise anyone who trusts in Him from spiritual death to life.

# DAILY DEVOTIONS



## The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



## Day One PROVERBS 3:1

In this proverb, Solomon emphasizes the importance of his son continually remembering what his father had taught him. From the beginning, it was the responsibility of parents to first know God and then teach their children the truths that are foundational to living well. Parents certainly aren't perfect. They make mistakes and even terrible choices, but this doesn't change the fact that the overwhelming majority of parents love their children. Here's the thing—every parent will ask their children to do things that aren't easy and might not make sense at the time. And the kids have two choices: either to disobey and do whatever they feel like, or to choose to honor their parents as God has commanded. It's important for us to honor the authority figures in our lives, and if we don't, we'll experience frustration and pain when we're young and when we're older. On the other hand, when we learn to listen to our parents' teaching, and ultimately to God, we put ourselves in the position to experience blessing.

- **Why is it sometimes hard to listen to our parents?**
- **Why is it important that we learn to honor authority?**



## Day Two

# PROVERBS 3:2

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There are serious implications associated with choosing to listen to the wisdom of our parents. Solomon lists three ways humility and obedience impacts our lives. First, he mentioned that honoring our parents leads to a long life, which is tied to the fifth commandment (Ex. 20:12). Not only does submitting to authority lead to a longer life, but it more importantly leads to a full and abundant life of joy and fulfillment. Finally, learning to honor our parents leads to a life of peace or wholeness. Of course, the opposite also applies: Pride and rebellion generally lead to a life that's shorter, isn't filled with joy, and is characterized by conflict and tension. What kind of life do we want? We have the choice: Will we live in pride and selfishness, or will we choose humility and submission to authority?

- **What is the connection between submission to authority and a blessed life?**
- **When you evaluate patterns in your life, which kind of life are you choosing?**

## Day Three

# PROVERBS 3:3

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Solomon taught his son that it's important to live by the principles his father taught, and the quality of his life depended on it. Solomon followed this challenge with a powerful principle: Always live according to a code of loyalty and faithfulness. This means that we're to be devoted to the people in our lives, provide support and encouragement, and give those we care about the benefit of the doubt. We should never gossip or tear down but instead build others up with our words, both to their faces and behind their backs. Of course, this applies to our family and to our friends. Even more importantly, we're to be faithful to the God who created us and saved us. This kind of love and trust is evidence of true salvation.

- **In your own words, how do we demonstrate faithfulness and loyalty?**
- **What is the connection between faithfulness, loyalty, and salvation?**

## Day Four

# PROVERBS 3:4

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As people made in God's image, we're created to live in relationships with others. Scripture clearly teaches that there is one God who exists as three Persons (which is impossible to fully grasp). The Persons of the Trinity live in perfect and whole relationship with one another, and our relationships serve as a reflection of a relational God. We're called to live in relationships not only with other people but also with God, and the quality of our relationships depends on the ways we treat others. If we're unfaithful or disloyal, it's easy to understand why our relationships might not be great. However, when we prioritize faithfulness and loyalty to the people in our lives, Solomon taught according to his wisdom (and remember, he was indescribably wise) that treating people this way will lead to favor with both people and God.

- **Why did God create us to live in relationships with others and Himself?**
- **According to Solomon, how do we earn favor in the eyes of others?**

## Day Five

# PROVERBS 3:5-6

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As God's sons and daughters, we are called to trust Him. This isn't always easy because God sometimes asks us to do things that don't make sense from an earthly perspective. But trust is all about living as God has called us, which might not be easy or comfortable. When we live by trust in God, not only will we grow in faith and knowledge of Him, but step by step, the old sinful and selfish nature will become increasingly weaker and the new spiritual person will become the more natural way of living. This doesn't mean that our lives will be easy in an earthly sense. However, when we pursue God as an expression of our heart's desire, God goes before us, and He will lead us into the place of eternal blessing.

- **What is the connection between trusting God and how we live?**
- **In real ways, how are you seeking to know God?**