

# 3

When Your Actions Cause an Interruption

WHEN HAS A WRONG DECISION OR MISTAKE AFFECTED THE COURSE OF YOUR LIFE?

The **POINT** > God can redeem our mistakes.

## > EXODUS 2:11-22; 3:5-10

<sup>11</sup>One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people. <sup>12</sup>He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. <sup>13</sup>When he went out the next day, behold, two Hebrews were struggling together. And he said to the man in the wrong, “Why do you strike your companion?” <sup>14</sup>He answered, “Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid, and thought, “Surely the thing is known.” <sup>15</sup>When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian. And he sat down by a well. <sup>16</sup>Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came and drew water and filled the troughs to water their father’s flock. <sup>17</sup>The shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and saved them, and watered their flock. <sup>18</sup>When they came home to their father Reuel, he said, “How is it that you have come home so soon today?” <sup>19</sup>They said, “An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds and even drew water for us and watered the flock.” <sup>20</sup>He said to his daughters, “Then

where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread.” <sup>21</sup>And Moses was content to dwell with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah. <sup>22</sup>She gave birth to a son, and he called his name Gershom, for he said, “I have been a sojourner in a foreign land.”

<sup>5</sup>Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”

<sup>6</sup>And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. <sup>7</sup>Then the LORD said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup> and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup> And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup> Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”



# THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

## FACT:

One of the leading causes of mistakes is overconfidence. It can lead to underestimating risk, ignoring feedback, and planning poorly.<sup>1</sup>



## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

People are created as moral beings and are responsible for their choices and the consequences of their choices, including the ways they treat others.

When James Chadwick was enrolling in classes at Manchester University, he intended to register for mathematics but was in the wrong line and registered for physics. Because he liked the professor, Dr. Ernest Rutherford, Chadwick decided to stay in the class. This wrong line and chance encounter led to a lifelong partnership. Rutherford later mapped out the atom and instilled in Chadwick a love for physics. Chadwick then went on to discover the neutron and became a pioneer in nuclear science, all because he got in the wrong line.

Not every mistake or wrong turn in our lives is divinely ordained by God in this way. However, wherever we find ourselves, it's worth taking a look around. God wants to use us in any situation, and He may turn it into something special. Today, let's ask ourselves: Does God want to teach me something while I'm in this season? Does God want me to talk to, pray with, or encourage someone I meet? Does God want me to serve someone in a practical way? Sometimes wrong turns or mistakes can be God leading us to exactly where He wants to use us. Moses shows us that God can use the messes we make to refine us if we only let Him.

## EXODUS 2:11-15

**1** Why did Moses give up his position among the Egyptians to embrace the life of the Hebrew slaves?

**2** When have you struggled to take responsibility for doing wrong?

## EXODUS 2:16-22

**3** When have you felt alone and desperate?

**4** How did God meet you in this place?

**5** How does God use places where we feel alone and desperate to build godly character in us?

## EXODUS 3:5-10

**6** How does it impact you to know that God is in control of all that happens, both on a cosmic scale and on a personal level?

**7** Why did Moses feel inadequate to do what God had called him to do? When have you felt like this?

**8** How has God used your own past struggles to prepare you to follow His calling on your life?

*God tests us in ways that reveal and refine us, depending on how we respond.  
#BSFLInterruptions*





# LIVE IT OUT



## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

*People are created as moral beings and are responsible for their choices and the consequences of their choices, including the ways they treat others.*

Moses made some bad choices in his early life, and he faced tough consequences because of those choices. Yet Moses was humble and learned from his mistakes, and God restored Moses in ways he wouldn't have imagined. We are responsible for our choices, and when we do wrong, the answer is to take responsibility, commit to making changes, and humbly pursue God's forgiveness. When we do, God will forgive and restore us.

## > CHRIST

When we make bad choices or disobey God, the consequences might feel as difficult as being lost in the wilderness. Thankfully, God forgives us and offers redemption from our failures. If disobeying God has led you to a place where you feel lost or relationally cut off from God, ask for forgiveness.

### 9 Read and reflect on these verses this week:

- > Psalm 103:10-14
- > Ephesians 1:7
- > Colossians 1:14
- > 1 John 1:9

**10** Through prayer, confess your sin (be specific), commit to making changes, and ask for God's forgiveness. If you truly mean it, you can walk away with a sense of freedom—you are forgiven!

GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

**PEOPLE**

FAMILY

COMMUNITY  
& WORLD

## > COMMUNITY

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When we sin, we're to confess not only to God but also to one another (James 5:16). This doesn't necessarily apply to every struggle in our lives but to sins that become a pattern and are difficult to overcome.

**11** If there's a sin you've tried to quit but haven't been able to, consider sharing it with a trusted friend or leader.



**12** Invite this person to provide accountability and to encourage you in pursuing Jesus.

## > CULTURE

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Moses grew up as an Egyptian, but God called him to something different. But then Moses messed up and damaged his reputation. As God's people, we are called out from the world to live as examples that point people to Jesus. Like Moses, though, we've all made mistakes that hurt our witness. We need to understand that this doesn't change God's purpose for our lives.

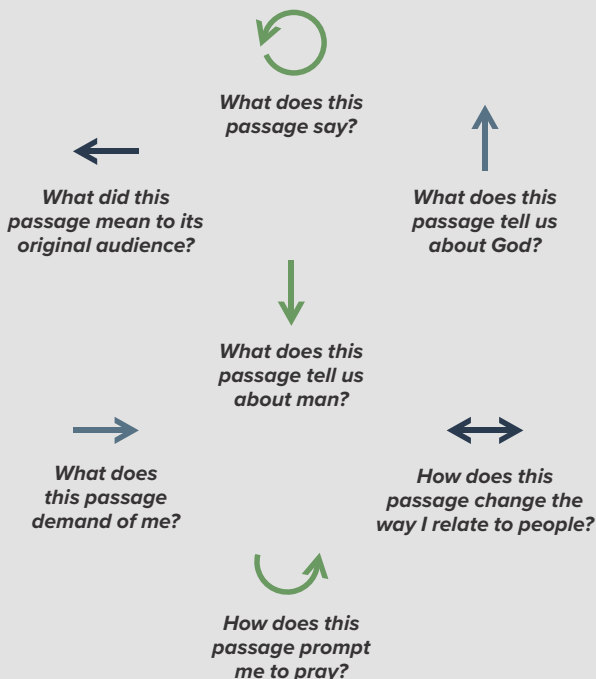
**13** If you've made mistakes that hurt your testimony, the first step is to take responsibility. What mistakes do you need to own?

**14** Now go and live boldly for Jesus and point others to Him. How specifically will you do this?

# DAILY DEVOTIONS



## The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



## Day One **PHILIPPIANS 4:4**

The word *rejoice* is based on the root word *joy*, and it means to be glad, take pleasure, or find delight in. In his letter to the Philippians, Paul has already told the church multiple times to rejoice (Phil. 2:18,28). Of course, Paul didn't mean that God's people are free to take pleasure or delight in the things of the world. Even though he didn't specify with his first several uses of the word *rejoice* what we should take joy in, Paul made it very clear what he meant in chapter 3. He said that God's people are to rejoice in the Lord. In today's verse, he repeated this idea twice, repeating that true joy is found in God Himself. And notice this isn't a suggestion, as if Paul mentioned this kind of rejoicing as a choice among many sources of joy. Instead, this is a command; it's non-negotiable. People were created for relationships, and we were also created to know joy. The beauty is that joy and relationships overlap, and true and lasting joy is found in a relationship with God. Let's not settle for cheap substitutes.

- **Where do you tend to seek pleasure and delight?**
- **Why is it important for us to understand that true and lasting joy is found in a relationship with God?**

## Day Two

# PHILIPPIANS 4:5

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We are saved by the grace of God. This means specifically that He offers salvation as a free gift that we don't deserve and could never earn. Graciousness is a defining characteristic of God, and because we are called to be like God, we should be known by the grace we show others. Of course, we can't offer salvation as a free gift, so what kind of graciousness are we to show? People are far from perfect, and we will offend or hurt one another because of our weaknesses. Showing grace involves gentleness and patience toward the weaknesses of others. Further, grace involves refusing to have a critical spirit and instead being slow to take offense, showing leniency and kindness even when others hurt us. We see these characteristics in Jesus Himself, and we should be known for living like Him. After all, the Lord is with us and He sees all we do, and we want to make sure we're found faithful.

- **How are we to show grace to the people around us?**
- **How does it impact you to know God is with you and sees everything you do?**

## Day Three

# PHILIPPIANS 4:6

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In a certain sense, there are all kinds of things to worry about. Life is not easy, and if we're not careful, we might find ourselves worrying about countless challenges in our lives. Paul knew this principle when he wrote this letter to the Christians in the Philippian church who were experiencing persecution for their faith, and still, he told them not to worry or be anxious. Here's the reason: We serve a God who loves us and has promised to provide for our eternal needs. He's faithful and we can trust Him, but worry indicates a lack of trust in God. Worry and anxiety show that our hearts and minds are set on the world and its challenges instead of on an all-powerful and all-wise God. When we're tempted to worry, the answer is to focus on God, to express thanks for all His blessings and to ask Him for the things we need. When we choose faith, gratitude, and prayer as the pattern in our lives, we'll find that God works in our hearts to root out worry.

- **What kinds of things are you tempted to worry about?**
- **How are we to confront the worry or anxiety in our hearts and minds?**

## Day Four

# PHILIPPIANS 4:7

Because this life is filled with challenges, we will be tempted to worry. Thankfully, the Bible offers an answer to our anxieties: We should trust in the goodness of God, count our blessings, respond with gratitude, and bring our requests before Him in prayer. When we make this the pattern of our lives, God will work in our hearts to displace the worries and anxieties that come so naturally. But that's not all. In the space created by the removal of worry, God will fill it with a supernatural peace that comes only from Him. Peace is not just a sense of calm and balance; biblical peace, or *shalom*, is much more. This kind of peace refers to wholeness or a lack of brokenness, not only within ourselves or in our relationships with others, but ultimately a wholeness in our relationship with God. Worry is a sign of brokenness or division in our lives. Peace, on the other hand, is a gift from God that comes from Him making us whole in Christ.

- **In your own words, what is peace?**
  
  
- **How is God working in your life to give you peace and make you whole?**

## Day Five

# PHILIPPIANS 4:7



Much of the turmoil in our lives comes from these three levels of conflict: within ourselves, with others, and with God. When we live in ways that aren't in line with our values, we feel shame and internal conflict. When we live selfishly or pridefully, we set ourselves at odds with other people. And when we refuse to submit to God in humility and obedience, we put ourselves in a position to experience God's discipline instead of blessing. All of these are painful and lead to a lack of peace in our lives. The answer to all of these is to take responsibility for bad choices, to make healthy changes in our lives, and to love God and others as Jesus did. When we do, the gift of God's peace will protect us against the worries of the world.

- **What are the three types of conflict or turmoil that we sometimes experience?**
  
  
- **How does God's peace guard our hearts and minds?**