

NEW MERCIES

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BECAUSE YESTERDAY DOESN'T
GET THE LAST WORD



HEY CHURCH FAMILY! WE ARE EXCITED TO INTRODUCE OUR NEWEST DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET. THESE BOOKLETS ARE DESIGNED TO COMPLEMENT OUR CURRENT SERMON SERIES AND FOSTER DEEPER ENGAGEMENT WITHIN OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY. EACH WEEK FEATURES FIVE READING AND DEVOTIONAL DAYS, CAREFULLY CRAFTED TO ALIGN WITH THE THEMES OF OUR WEEKLY SUNDAY SERMONS. BY JOURNEYING THROUGH THESE DEVOTIONS TOGETHER, WE AIM TO CREATE A UNIFIED CHURCH EXPERIENCE THAT ENHANCES OUR COLLECTIVE UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION OF GOD'S WORD.

EACH DEVOTIONAL INCLUDES A CORRESPONDING SCRIPTURE READING AND A SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE, ENCOURAGING US TO IMMERSE OURSELVES IN GOD'S WORD DAILY. TO GUIDE OUR STUDY, WE WILL BE USING THE H.E.A.R. METHOD, WHICH STANDS FOR HIGHLIGHT, EXPLAIN, APPLY, AND RESPOND. THIS METHOD IS EXPLAINED IN DETAIL ON THE NEXT PAGE AND PROVIDES A STRUCTURED APPROACH TO HELP US REFLECT ON AND INTERNALIZE THE SCRIPTURES.

ADDITIONALLY, EACH WEEK'S DEVOTIONALS ARE DESIGNED TO LEAD INTO THE COMING SUNDAY SERMON. THIS ALLOWS US THE OPPORTUNITY TO THINK THROUGH COMMON THEMES AND TOPICS THAT WILL BE EXPLORED IN THE SERMON. BY STUDYING THESE THEMES THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, WE CAN COME TO SUNDAY SERVICES WITH A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING AND READINESS TO ENGAGE WITH THE MAIN STUDY OF THE TEXT.

OUR HOPE IS THAT THIS DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET WILL NOT ONLY DEEPEN OUR PERSONAL FAITH BUT ALSO STRENGTHEN OUR COLLECTIVE BOND AS A CHURCH FAMILY. BY ENGAGING WITH THE SAME SCRIPTURES AND THEMES, WE CAN SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER IN OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH. LET'S EMBARK ON THIS JOURNEY TOGETHER, SEEKING TO GROW CLOSER TO GOD AND TO EACH OTHER THROUGH HIS WORD.

THE H.E.A.R. METHOD IS A GREAT TOOL TO STUDY AND EXPLORE GOD'S WORD. EXPLAINED BELOW, YOU CAN USE THIS METHOD AS A GUIDE TO YOUR DAILY BIBLE READING EACH DAY.

- H** HIGHLIGHT - AS YOU READ THROUGH EACH DAILY PASSAGE, SEVERAL VERSES AND WORDS WILL STAND OUT TO YOU. HIGHLIGHT THEM AND CONSIDER WRITING THEM OUT. YOU CAN EVEN GIVE THEM A TITLE THAT HOLDS MEANING FOR YOU.
- E** EXPLAIN. EXPLAIN WHAT THE TEXT MEANS. WHY WAS IT WRITTEN? TO WHOM WAS IT ORIGINALLY WRITTEN? HOW DOES IT FIT WITH THE VERSES BEFORE AND AFTER IT? WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT INTEND TO COMMUNICATE IN THIS TEXT?
- A** APPLY. WRITE 2 TO 5 SENTENCES ABOUT HOW THE TEXT APPLIES TO YOUR LIFE. THIS BRIDGES THE GAP BETWEEN THE ANCIENT TEXT AND YOUR MODERN LIFE. ASK QUESTIONS SUCH AS: HOW CAN THIS HELP ME? WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN TO US TODAY? WHAT WOULD THE APPLICATION OF THIS VERSE LOOK LIKE IN MY LIFE? WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME?
- R** RESPOND. RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE YOU HAVE READ. YOUR RESPONSE MAY TAKE DIFFERENT FORMS AND CHANGE FROM DAY TO DAY, BASED ON YOUR READING. IT MAY BE A PRAYER, EITHER FOR YOUR LIFE OR ON BEHALF OF SOMEONE ELSE. YOU MAY WRITE DOWN A SPECIFIC ACTION STEP YOU NEED TO TAKE. YOU MIGHT DESCRIBE HOW THE PASSAGE CONVICTS YOU TO CHANGE. KEEP IN MIND THAT YOUR RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE IS ABOUT YOU AND YOU ALONE, NOT OTHER PEOPLE OR SOCIETY AT LARGE.

THE BREAK BEFORE THE BREAKTHROUGH

SCRIPTURE READING: LAMENTATIONS 3:1-20

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: LAMENTATIONS 3:31

SOMETIMES LIFE FEELS REALLY HEAVY. YOU MIGHT FEEL SAD, CONFUSED, OR STUCK AND NOT KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT. IN THIS PASSAGE, THE WRITER FEELS OVERWHELMED AND HURT, AND HE TELLS GOD EXACTLY HOW HE FEELS. THE BIBLE SHOWS US THAT IT'S OKAY TO BE HONEST WITH GOD—EVEN WHEN WE FEEL ANGRY, TIRED, OR DISCOURAGED. GOD ALREADY KNOWS OUR HEARTS, AND HE WANTS US TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE.

THIS KIND OF SADNESS CAN FEEL LIKE EVERYTHING IS FALLING APART, BUT GOD IS STILL THERE. BEFORE GOD BRINGS SOMETHING NEW, THERE IS OFTEN A HARD MOMENT FIRST. THAT HARD MOMENT DOESN'T MEAN GOD HAS LEFT YOU. IT MIGHT MEAN HE'S GETTING READY TO HELP YOU GROW. WHEN THINGS FEEL BROKEN, GOD IS STILL WORKING—EVEN IF YOU CAN'T SEE IT YET.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHEN YOU FEEL SAD OR UPSET, WHO DO YOU USUALLY TALK TO?
- WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE TO TELL GOD HONESTLY HOW YOU FEEL?

HIGHLIGHT ➤ EXPLAIN ➤ APPLY ➤ RESPOND

WAITING IN DARKNESS

SCRIPTURE READING: PSALM 13:1-6

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: LAMENTATIONS 3:31

WAITING CAN BE ONE OF THE HARDEST THINGS TO DO. WAITING FOR ANSWERS, WAITING FOR HELP, OR WAITING FOR THINGS TO GET BETTER CAN MAKE US FEEL FRUSTRATED OR FORGOTTEN. IN THIS PSALM, DAVID ASKS GOD, "HOW LONG?" HE FEELS LIKE GOD IS BEING QUIET. INSTEAD OF GIVING UP, DAVID KEEPS TALKING TO GOD AND TRUSTING HIM, EVEN WHEN HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENING. BY THE END OF THE PSALM, DAVID REMEMBERS THAT GOD HAS ALWAYS BEEN LOVING AND FAITHFUL. SOMETIMES THINGS DON'T CHANGE RIGHT AWAY, BUT OUR HEARTS CAN CHANGE WHILE WE WAIT. GOD USES WAITING TO HELP US GROW STRONGER AND TRUST HIM MORE. JUST BECAUSE GOD FEELS QUIET DOESN'T MEAN HE'S GONE. HE'S STILL WORKING, EVEN DURING THE WAIT.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU'RE HAVING A HARD TIME WAITING FOR?
- HOW CAN REMEMBERING GOD'S LOVE HELP YOU WHILE YOU WAIT?

PRESSED BUT NOT ABANDONED

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 4:7–12

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: LAMENTATIONS 3:31

GOD KNOWS WE ARE NOT PERFECT OR STRONG ALL THE TIME. THE BIBLE SAYS WE ARE LIKE CLAY JARS—EASY TO CRACK—BUT WE CARRY SOMETHING AMAZING INSIDE US: GOD'S POWER. LIFE CAN FEEL STRESSFUL, AND SOMETIMES WE FEEL TIRED, CONFUSED, OR HURT. PAUL REMINDS US THAT EVEN WHEN LIFE FEELS HEAVY, GOD NEVER LEAVES US OR GIVES UP ON US. WHEN THINGS FEEL HARD, GOD'S STRENGTH CAN SHOW UP EVEN MORE CLEARLY. BEING WEAK DOESN'T MEAN FAILING—IT MEANS WE NEED GOD. THE TOUGH MOMENTS IN LIFE CAN HELP US RELY ON HIM INSTEAD OF TRYING TO DO EVERYTHING ON OUR OWN. GOD CAN USE HARD TIMES TO SHOW HIS POWER IN AMAZING WAYS.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHEN DO YOU FEEL THE WEAKEST OR MOST STRESSED?
- HOW CAN YOU ASK GOD FOR HELP INSTEAD OF TRYING TO HANDLE EVERYTHING ALONE?

SILENCE BEFORE THE STORM

SCRIPTURE READING: JOB 23:1–10

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: LAMENTATIONS 3:31

JOB WAS GOING THROUGH A REALLY HARD TIME AND FELT LIKE GOD WASN'T ANSWERING HIM. HE LOOKED EVERYWHERE FOR GOD BUT COULDN'T FIND HIM. EVEN THOUGH JOB DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS HAPPENING, HE STILL BELIEVED GOD KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING. THAT TAKES COURAGE AND TRUST. SOMETIMES GOD FEELS QUIET, AND THAT CAN BE CONFUSING OR EVEN SCARY. BUT GOD IS STILL PAYING ATTENTION. QUIET SEASONS CAN HELP US LEARN PATIENCE AND TRUST. EVEN WHEN WE DON'T HAVE ANSWERS, WE CAN TRUST THAT GOD IS GOOD AND KNOWS WHAT'S BEST FOR US.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- HOW DO YOU FEEL WHEN GOD SEEMS QUIET?
- WHAT HELPS YOU REMEMBER THAT GOD IS STILL WITH YOU?

FROM DEATH TO LIFE

SCRIPTURE READING: JOHN 11:32–44

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: LAMENTATIONS 3:31

MARY AND MARTHA WERE VERY SAD BECAUSE THEIR BROTHER LAZARUS HAD DIED. THEY WISHED JESUS HAD COME SOONER. JESUS CARED DEEPLY ABOUT THEIR PAIN—HE EVEN CRIED WITH THEM. JESUS UNDERSTANDS WHEN WE ARE SAD OR DISAPPOINTED. HE DOESN'T IGNORE OUR FEELINGS. THEN JESUS DID SOMETHING AMAZING—HE BROUGHT LAZARUS BACK TO LIFE. WHAT SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE WAS NOT IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD. THIS STORY SHOWS US THAT GOD'S TIMING IS ALWAYS RIGHT, EVEN WHEN IT FEELS LATE. GOD CAN BRING HOPE AND NEW LIFE OUT OF THE HARDEST SITUATIONS. THE HARD MOMENT MAY COME FIRST, BUT GOD'S BREAKTHROUGH IS COMING.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT FEELS IMPOSSIBLE RIGHT NOW?
- HOW CAN YOU TRUST JESUS EVEN WHEN THINGS DON'T HAPPEN RIGHT AWAY?

HOPE REMEMBERED

SCRIPTURE READING: LAMENTATIONS 3:21–26

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: LAMENTATIONS 3:22–23

SOMETIMES LIFE FEELS REALLY HEAVY. YOU MIGHT FEEL SAD, FRUSTRATED, OR UNSURE ABOUT WHAT'S COMING NEXT. THAT'S HOW JEREMIAH FELT WHEN HE WROTE LAMENTATIONS. THINGS WERE NOT GOING WELL AT ALL—BUT THEN SOMETHING IMPORTANT HAPPENED. JEREMIAH MADE A CHOICE TO REMEMBER WHO GOD IS. HE REMEMBERED THAT GOD IS LOVING, FAITHFUL, AND FULL OF MERCY. THAT MOMENT OF REMEMBERING BECAME A TURNING POINT. GOD'S MERCY DOESN'T RUN OUT, EVEN ON OUR WORST DAYS. EVERY MORNING, GOD GIVES US BRAND-NEW MERCY—LIKE A FRESH START. WAITING ON GOD DOESN'T MEAN DOING NOTHING; IT MEANS TRUSTING THAT GOD IS WORKING EVEN WHEN WE CAN'T SEE IT YET. WHEN WE REMEMBER GOD'S FAITHFULNESS, HOPE BEGINS TO GROW AGAIN. SOMETIMES THE BIGGEST CHANGE HAPPENS INSIDE OUR HEARTS FIRST.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHAT IS SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT GOD YOU CAN REMEMBER WHEN YOU FEEL DISCOURAGED?
- HOW DOES KNOWING GOD GIVES "NEW MERCY EVERY MORNING" HELP YOU TODAY?

THE TURNING OF A SHEPHERD'S HEART

SCRIPTURE READING: PSALM 23:1-6

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23

DAVID TALKS ABOUT GOD LIKE A SHEPHERD WHO TAKES CARE OF HIS SHEEP. SHEEP NEED HELP—THEY GET LOST EASILY AND CAN'T PROTECT THEMSELVES VERY WELL. DAVID SAYS THAT EVEN WHEN HE WALKS THROUGH DARK AND SCARY PLACES, HE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID BECAUSE GOD IS RIGHT THERE WITH HIM. THAT REALIZATION IS THE TURNING POINT. GOD DOESN'T PROMISE THAT LIFE WILL ALWAYS BE EASY, BUT HE DOES PROMISE TO STAY WITH US. WHEN THINGS FEEL CONFUSING OR SCARY, GOD GUIDES US, PROTECTS US, AND GIVES US PEACE. JUST LIKE A SHEPHERD STAYS CLOSE TO HIS SHEEP, GOD STAYS CLOSE TO US. KNOWING THAT GOD IS WITH YOU CAN CHANGE HOW YOU FACE HARD SITUATIONS.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHEN DO YOU MOST NEED TO REMEMBER THAT GOD IS WITH YOU?
- HOW CAN TRUSTING GOD HELP YOU FEEL LESS AFRAID?

FROM FEAR TO FAITH

SCRIPTURE READING: EXODUS 14:10–14, 21–22

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: LAMENTATIONS 3:22–23

THE ISRAELITES WERE TRAPPED. THE RED SEA WAS IN FRONT OF THEM, AND THE EGYPTIAN ARMY WAS BEHIND THEM. THEY WERE SCARED AND DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. BUT GOD TOLD THEM NOT TO PANIC—HE WOULD FIGHT FOR THEM. WHEN GOD PARTED THE SEA, EVERYTHING CHANGED. THAT MOMENT BECAME A HUGE TURNING POINT FOR HIS PEOPLE. SOMETIMES WE FEEL STUCK TOO—LIKE THERE'S NO GOOD CHOICE OR WAY OUT. THIS STORY REMINDS US THAT GOD CAN MAKE A WAY WHEN WE DON'T SEE ONE. GOD WANTS US TO TRUST HIM, EVEN WHEN THINGS FEEL IMPOSSIBLE. HE IS STRONG, POWERFUL, AND ALWAYS IN CONTROL.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHAT IS A PROBLEM THAT FEELS TOO BIG FOR YOU RIGHT NOW?
- HOW CAN YOU TRUST GOD TO HELP YOU MOVE FORWARD?

A PRAYER THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

SCRIPTURE READING: JONAH 2:1–10

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: LAMENTATIONS 3:22–23

JONAH TRIED TO RUN AWAY FROM GOD, AND THINGS DIDN'T GO WELL. HE ENDED UP INSIDE A GIANT FISH! WHILE JONAH WAS STUCK, HE PRAYED. HE REMEMBERED GOD AND ASKED FOR HELP. THAT PRAYER BECAME THE TURNING POINT IN JONAH'S STORY.

EVEN WHEN WE MESS UP, GOD DOESN'T STOP LOVING US. GOD LISTENS WHEN WE PRAY—ESPECIALLY WHEN WE ARE HONEST. JONAH LEARNED THAT GOD IS FULL OF MERCY AND READY TO FORGIVE. GOD CAN USE HARD MOMENTS TO HELP US GROW AND CHANGE.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHY DO YOU THINK GOD LISTENS WHEN WE PRAY, EVEN AFTER MISTAKES?
- HOW CAN PRAYING HELP YOU WHEN YOU FEEL STUCK?

THE RESURRECTION TURNING POINT

SCRIPTURE READING: LUKE 24:1–8, 30–32

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: LAMENTATIONS 3:22–23

THE DISCIPLES THOUGHT EVERYTHING WAS OVER WHEN JESUS DIED. THEY WERE SAD AND CONFUSED. BUT WHEN JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD, EVERYTHING CHANGED! SADNESS TURNED INTO JOY, FEAR TURNED INTO HOPE, AND DEATH TURNED INTO LIFE. THE RESURRECTION IS THE GREATEST TURNING POINT EVER. BECAUSE JESUS IS ALIVE, WE CAN HAVE HOPE NO MATTER WHAT WE FACE. GOD CAN TAKE THE HARDEST MOMENTS AND TURN THEM INTO SOMETHING GOOD. JESUS' RESURRECTION REMINDS US THAT GOD ALWAYS HAS THE FINAL WORD—AND THAT WORD IS FULL OF HOPE.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- HOW DOES KNOWING JESUS IS ALIVE GIVE YOU HOPE?
- HOW CAN GOD USE HARD THINGS IN YOUR LIFE FOR GOOD?

LEARNING HOW TO WAIT

SCRIPTURE READING: LAMENTATIONS 3:27–39

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: LAMENTATIONS 3:26

WAITING CAN FEEL REALLY HARD. IT MIGHT MEAN WAITING FOR AN ANSWER, WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO CHANGE, OR WAITING FOR THINGS TO FEEL BETTER. IN LAMENTATIONS, GOD'S PEOPLE WERE HURTING, AND EVERYTHING AROUND THEM FELT BROKEN. EVEN IN THAT TOUGH MOMENT, THE BIBLE SAYS LEARNING TO WAIT IS ACTUALLY GOOD FOR US. WAITING HELPS US GROW STRONGER ON THE INSIDE, EVEN WHEN NOTHING SEEMS TO BE HAPPENING ON THE OUTSIDE. GOD WANTS US TO KNOW THAT HE IS NOT MEAN OR UNFAIR. HE DOESN'T ENJOY WATCHING PEOPLE STRUGGLE. SOMETIMES HE ALLOWS WAITING SO WE CAN LEARN TO TRUST HIM MORE. WHEN WE WAIT, WE LEARN PATIENCE, HUMILITY, AND HOW TO LEAN ON GOD INSTEAD OF TRYING TO FIX EVERYTHING OURSELVES. WAITING REMINDS US THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL —AND THAT HE CARES DEEPLY ABOUT US, EVEN WHEN LIFE FEELS CONFUSING.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU'RE HAVING A HARD TIME WAITING FOR RIGHT NOW?
- HOW CAN WAITING HELP YOU TRUST GOD MORE?

WAITING WHEN THE PROMISE FEELS DELAYED

SCRIPTURE READING: GENESIS 12:1-4; 15:1-6; 21:1-7

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: LAMENTATIONS 3:26

GOD PROMISED ABRAHAM SOMETHING AMAZING—HE WOULD HAVE A HUGE FAMILY! BUT ABRAHAM HAD TO WAIT A LONG TIME BEFORE THAT PROMISE CAME TRUE. SOME DAYS, IT PROBABLY FELT LIKE GOD FORGOT. BUT GOD NEVER FORGETS HIS PROMISES. WHILE ABRAHAM WAITED, GOD WAS TEACHING HIM HOW TO TRUST, EVEN WHEN THINGS DIDN'T MAKE SENSE. WAITING CAN MAKE US IMPATIENT, ESPECIALLY WHEN WE WANT THINGS NOW. BUT GOD'S TIMING IS ALWAYS BETTER THAN OURS. WHEN THE PROMISE FINALLY CAME, ABRAHAM KNEW IT WAS GOD WHO MADE IT HAPPEN. WAITING HELPED ABRAHAM LEARN THAT GOD KEEPS HIS WORD—AND HE ALWAYS DOES WHAT HE SAYS HE WILL DO.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHY DO YOU THINK WAITING FOR PROMISES CAN BE DIFFICULT?
- HOW DOES ABRAHAM'S STORY HELP YOU TRUST GOD?

WAITING WITHOUT LOSING HEART

SCRIPTURE READING: PSALM 27:7-14

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: LAMENTATIONS 3:26

DAVID WROTE THIS PSALM DURING A TIME WHEN HE WAS SCARED AND UNSURE OF WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT. INSTEAD OF GIVING UP, DAVID CHOSE TO WAIT ON THE LORD. THAT DOESN'T MEAN HE WASN'T AFRAID—IT MEANS HE TRUSTED GOD EVEN WITH HIS FEAR. WAITING DOESN'T MEAN PRETENDING EVERYTHING IS OKAY. IT MEANS BELIEVING GOD IS WITH YOU WHILE YOU WAIT. DAVID REMINDS US TO BE STRONG AND BRAVE WHILE WE WAIT. GOD USES WAITING TO GROW OUR COURAGE AND FAITH. WHEN WE CHOOSE TO TRUST GOD INSTEAD OF PANICKING, WE LEARN THAT HE IS FAITHFUL. WAITING HELPS US STAY CLOSE TO GOD AND REMEMBER THAT HE IS ALWAYS WORKING, EVEN WHEN WE CAN'T SEE IT YET.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHAT MAKES IT HARD FOR YOU TO WAIT WITHOUT GETTING UPSET?
- HOW CAN PRAYER HELP YOU DURING WAITING SEASONS?

WAITING THAT PRODUCES STRENGTH

SCRIPTURE READING: ISAIAH 40:27–31

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: LAMENTATIONS 3:26

SOMETIMES WAITING MAKES US FEEL TIRED—EMOTIONALLY AND PHYSICALLY. GOD KNOWS THIS, AND ISAIAH REMINDS US THAT GOD NEVER GETS TIRED. HE GIVES STRENGTH TO PEOPLE WHO FEEL WORN OUT. WHEN WE WAIT ON THE LORD, HE PROMISES TO HELP US KEEP GOING, EVEN WHEN THINGS FEEL TOUGH. WAITING TEACHES US THAT WE DON'T HAVE TO BE STRONG ON OUR OWN. GOD GIVES STRENGTH TO THOSE WHO TRUST HIM. INSTEAD OF RUSHING AHEAD OR GIVING UP, WAITING HELPS US SLOW DOWN AND REMEMBER THAT GOD IS BIGGER THAN OUR PROBLEMS. HE LIFTS US UP WHEN WE FEEL WEAK.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHEN DO YOU FEEL THE MOST TIRED OR DISCOURAGED?
- HOW CAN TRUSTING GOD GIVE YOU STRENGTH DURING THOSE TIMES?

WAITING WITH EXPECTANT FAITH

SCRIPTURE READING: ACTS 1:4-8; 2:1-4

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: LAMENTATIONS 3:26

AFTER JESUS WENT BACK TO HEAVEN, HIS FOLLOWERS WANTED TO GET STARTED TELLING EVERYONE ABOUT HIM. BUT JESUS TOLD THEM TO WAIT. HE KNEW THEY NEEDED GOD'S POWER FIRST. WHILE THEY WAITED TOGETHER AND PRAYED, GOD SENT THE HOLY SPIRIT. WAITING PREPARED THEM FOR SOMETHING INCREDIBLE. SOMETIMES GOD ASKS US TO WAIT BECAUSE HE HAS SOMETHING SPECIAL PLANNED. WAITING HELPS US BE READY FOR WHAT'S NEXT. WHEN WE TRUST GOD AND WAIT PATIENTLY, WE LEARN THAT HIS PLANS ARE ALWAYS BETTER THAN RUSHING AHEAD ON OUR OWN.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHY DO YOU THINK JESUS WANTED THE DISCIPLES TO WAIT?
- HOW CAN WAITING HELP YOU BE READY FOR WHAT GOD WANTS TO DO NEXT?

HOPE THAT CHOOSES FAITHFULNESS

SCRIPTURE READING: LAMENTATIONS 3:40–58

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: LAMENTATIONS 3:40–41

SOMETIMES LIFE FEELS HEAVY. WE MESS UP, FEEL SAD, OR WONDER IF GOD IS DISAPPOINTED IN US. IN LAMENTATIONS, GOD'S PEOPLE WERE HURTING BECAUSE OF THEIR OWN CHOICES, BUT INSTEAD OF GIVING UP, THEY DECIDED TO STOP AND LOOK AT THEIR HEARTS. THEY CHOSE TO TURN BACK TO GOD. THAT'S WHERE HOPE BEGINS. HOPE DOESN'T START WHEN EVERYTHING FEELS BETTER—IT STARTS WHEN WE DECIDE TO GO BACK TO GOD, EVEN IF WE FEEL FAR AWAY. WHEN THE PEOPLE CRIED OUT, GOD LISTENED. HE DIDN'T IGNORE THEM. HE DIDN'T SAY IT WAS TOO LATE. GOD SHOWED THEM THAT HIS MERCY WAS STILL THERE. THIS TEACHES US SOMETHING IMPORTANT: HOPE MOVES FORWARD WHEN WE REMEMBER WHO GOD IS. EVEN WHEN WE MESS UP, GOD STILL LOVES US AND STILL WANTS TO HELP US GROW. TURNING BACK TO GOD IS NEVER A STEP BACKWARD—IT'S THE FIRST STEP FORWARD.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- IS THERE SOMETHING YOU NEED TO TALK TO GOD ABOUT TODAY?
- HOW DOES KNOWING GOD LISTENS GIVE YOU HOPE?

HOPE CHOOSES FAITHFULNESS

SCRIPTURE READING: RUTH 1:6–18

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: LAMENTATIONS 3:40–41

RUTH HAD EVERY REASON TO QUIT. SHE HAD LOST HER HUSBAND, LEFT HER HOME, AND FACED AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE. BUT INSTEAD OF CHOOSING WHAT WAS EASIEST, RUTH CHOSE TO STAY FAITHFUL. SHE DECIDED TO FOLLOW NAOMI AND TRUST NAOMI'S GOD, EVEN THOUGH SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT. THAT KIND OF CHOICE TAKES COURAGE. RUTH'S HOPE DIDN'T COME FROM KNOWING THE FUTURE—IT CAME FROM TRUSTING GOD. SOMETIMES HOPE MOVES FORWARD THROUGH SMALL BUT IMPORTANT DECISIONS. CHOOSING KINDNESS, LOYALTY, AND OBEDIENCE MAY NOT FEEL EXCITING, BUT THOSE CHOICES MATTER. GOD USED RUTH'S FAITHFULNESS TO BLESS HER LIFE IN AMAZING WAYS. WHEN WE CHOOSE TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT—EVEN WHEN IT'S HARD—GOD CAN USE OUR CHOICES TO GROW OUR HOPE AND SHAPE OUR FUTURE.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHAT IS ONE RIGHT CHOICE YOU CAN MAKE TODAY, EVEN IF IT'S HARD?
- HOW DOES TRUSTING GOD HELP YOU MOVE FORWARD?

HOPE THAT KEEPS BUILDING

SCRIPTURE READING: NEHEMIAH 2:11–18; 4:6

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: LAMENTATIONS 3:40–41

WHEN NEHEMIAH SAW THE BROKEN WALLS OF JERUSALEM, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASY TO GIVE UP. THE DAMAGE WAS BIG, AND THE WORK WOULD TAKE TIME. BUT NEHEMIAH BELIEVED GOD WASN'T FINISHED YET. INSTEAD OF FOCUSING ON HOW BAD THINGS LOOKED, HE FOCUSED ON WHAT GOD COULD DO. HOPE HELPED HIM START BUILDING, ONE STONE AT A TIME. REBUILDING TAKES PATIENCE. SOMETIMES CHANGE DOESN'T HAPPEN ALL AT ONCE. BUT EVERY SMALL STEP MATTERS. WHEN THE PEOPLE WORKED TOGETHER, THE WALL BEGAN TO RISE. THIS SHOWS US THAT HOPE MOVES FORWARD WHEN WE DON'T QUIT. GOD CAN USE OUR EFFORT—EVEN WHEN IT FEELS SLOW—TO BUILD SOMETHING STRONG AND GOOD IN OUR LIVES.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR LIFE GOD MIGHT BE HELPING YOU REBUILD?
- HOW CAN YOU KEEP GOING WHEN PROGRESS FEELS SLOW?

HOPE THAT ENDURES THE WAIT

SCRIPTURE READING: PSALM 40:1-5

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: LAMENTATIONS 3:40-41

WAITING CAN BE ONE OF THE HARDEST THINGS TO DO. WE WANT ANSWERS NOW. WE WANT CHANGE NOW. BUT DAVID REMINDS US THAT WAITING ON GOD DOESN'T MEAN DOING NOTHING—IT MEANS TRUSTING. DAVID CRIED OUT TO GOD AND BELIEVED GOD HEARD HIM, EVEN BEFORE THINGS CHANGED. HOPE HELPED DAVID KEEP TRUSTING WHILE HE WAITED. WHEN GOD FINALLY ANSWERED, DAVID REALIZED SOMETHING IMPORTANT: GOD HAD BEEN WORKING ALL ALONG. WAITING HELPED STRENGTHEN HIS FAITH. SOMETIMES GOD USES WAITING TO TEACH US PATIENCE AND TRUST. EVEN WHEN NOTHING SEEMS TO BE HAPPENING, GOD IS STILL MOVING US FORWARD IN WAYS WE CAN'T ALWAYS SEE.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU ARE WAITING ON GOD FOR RIGHT NOW?
- HOW CAN TRUSTING GOD HELP WHILE YOU WAIT?

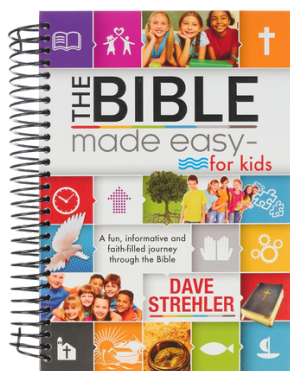
HOPE THAT ANCHORS THE FUTURE

SCRIPTURE READING: ROMANS 8:18–28

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: LAMENTATIONS 3:40–41

LIFE ISN'T ALWAYS EASY, AND SOMETIMES HARD THINGS DON'T MAKE SENSE. PAUL REMINDS US THAT WHAT WE FACE NOW IS NOT THE END OF THE STORY. GOD HAS A FUTURE FILLED WITH HOPE. EVEN WHEN LIFE FEELS UNFAIR OR CONFUSING, GOD IS STILL WORKING. HOPE HELPS US REMEMBER THAT GOD'S PLAN IS BIGGER THAN TODAY. GOD PROMISES TO USE EVERYTHING—EVEN TOUGH MOMENTS—FOR GOOD. THAT DOESN'T MEAN EVERYTHING WILL FEEL GOOD, BUT IT MEANS GOD WILL NEVER WASTE OUR PAIN. HOPE MOVES FORWARD WHEN WE TRUST THAT GOD IS SHAPING OUR FUTURE, EVEN WHEN WE DON'T UNDERSTAND THE PROCESS.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- HOW DOES KNOWING GOD HAS A GOOD PLAN HELP YOU STAY HOPEFUL?
- WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO TRUST GOD WITH YOUR FUTURE?



THE BIBLE MADE EASY – FOR KIDS

THE BIBLE MADE EASY—FOR KIDS SPIRAL EDITION IS ANYTHING BUT BORING! THIS EXTRAORDINARY BOOK WILL MAKE BIBLE LEARNING A FUN AND INTERACTIVE ADVENTURE FOR KIDS AND ADULTS ALIKE. WHETHER YOU'RE EXPLORING KEY BIBLICAL TOPICS LIKE FAITH AND SALVATION OR SIMPLY DIVING INTO BIBLE STORIES, THIS BOOK IS DESIGNED TO MAKE UNDERSTANDING SCRIPTURE EXCITING AND RELATABLE FOR CHILDREN.



77 BIBLE ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

77 BIBLE ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS IS AN EDUCATIONAL AND ENTERTAINING SCRIPTURE-BASED ACTIVITY BOOK FOR KIDS AGED 5-8, FILLED WITH FUN MAZES, PUZZLES, JOIN-THE-DOTS, WORD SEARCHES AND CRACK-THE-CODE GAMES. 77 BIBLE ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS IS DESIGNED TO ENTERTAIN LITTLE ONES WHILE AT THE SAME TIME INSTILLING IN THEM A LOVE FOR GOD'S WORD. KIDS WILL HAVE FUN JOINING THE DOTS TO SEE WHAT SWALLOWED JONAH OR HELPING THE ANIMALS FIND THEIR WAY BACK TO NOAH'S ARK THROUGH A TRICKY MAZE. THE ACTIVITIES WILL OCCUPY THEIR ATTENTION AND AT THE SAME TIME TEACH THEM ABOUT THE BIBLE.

HIGHLIGHT ➤ EXPLAIN ➤ APPLY ➤ RESPOND



WOULD YOU RATHER? BIBLE QUESTIONS

WOULD YOU RATHER? BIBLE QUESTIONS INVITES KIDS 8 TO 12 TO DISCOVER OR REVISIT FAMILIAR ILLUSTRATIONS OF GOD'S TRUE LOVE THROUGH VIBRANT EXAMPLES FOUND IN THE BIBLE. THEY'LL ENCOUNTER MIRACLES, HEROES, JESUS' LIFE, PARABLES, AND MORE AS THEY COMPETE TO OFFER THE FUNNIEST, WISEST, OR MOST CREATIVE ANSWER TO WIN IN THIS LIVELY CHRISTIAN BOOK OF CHALLENGES. WOULD YOU RATHER SOAR ON EAGLES' WINGS OR WALK THROUGH THE PARTED RED SEA? WOULD YOU RATHER SEE A DONKEY TALK OR AN INVISIBLE HAND WRITE ON THE WALL? THERE'S A QUESTION FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN KID TO EXPLORE THEIR FAITH WITH MORE THAN 170 FUN, HUMOROUS, AND SURPRISING SCENARIOS FROM THE BIBLE.

ALL THESE BOOKS AND MORE ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.FITBOOKS.COM OR BY VISITING THE OCOEE FIT BOOKS STORE AT 9567 W COLONIAL DR. OCOEE, FL 34761

**WORSHIP PLAYLISTS, PDF
BOOKLETS, AND OTHERS**



GATHERING TIMES

TRADITIONAL SERVICE

8:30 AM

LIFE GROUPS

9:45 AM

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

11 AM

WEDNESDAY GROUPS

6:30 PM



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