

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week # 5 - "The Seasons of Life God Uses to Grow Faith"



GETTING STARTED

Spend some time checking in with each other. Any highs and lows since the last time you met?

Pastor Hans mentioned mountaintop moments and the impact they have in our lives. What moments or experiences come to mind in your life?

THIS WEEK'S THEME

Why do you think moments of joy and success are often referred to as "God moments"? How does recognizing and experiencing God's goodness in those times shape your faith?

Have you ever experienced a wilderness season, where life was difficult and God seemed distant? How did you navigate that season, and how did it shape your faith?

Pastor Hans mentions that we often associate mountaintop experiences with God's presence but tend to overlook God's work in the wilderness moments. Have you found it difficult to recognize God's presence in difficult times? Why or why not? Can you think of a time when a challenge or hardship deepened your faith in unexpected ways?

What does it mean to you that God is always near, whether in moments of joy or in the midst of pain and struggle? How can we train ourselves to hear God's whisper, especially when life is overwhelming or confusing?

Your circumstances are never an indicator of God's absence, but sometimes that's easier said than believed. How can we learn to trust God more fully during the wilderness seasons, especially when we can't see God's presence as clearly as we do in the mountaintop moments?

When in other areas of your life has trust led to growth? How could trust within this group lead to trusting God, which leads to growing your faith? What could your group specifically do to facilitate this trust in the midst of wilderness moments?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read 1 Kings 19:1-12

The books of 1st and 2nd Kings are separate in our Bibles, but they were originally written to tell one, unified story.

King Solomon was the son of King David, and the beginning of 1 Kings is about Solomon's rise and fall. He completes his father's dream of building a temple for the God of Israel, but as soon as he finishes it, his corruption causes the kingdom to fall apart, leading to even further corruption and idolatry.

Starting in 1 Kings 17, we learn about the prophet Elijah, and his disciple Elisha - whom God raised up to hold the kings accountable. The king at that time, Ahab, together with his wife Jezebel, use their royal power to do some terrible things. Elijah attempts to thwart their power, so Jezebel and Ahab threaten Elijah, causing him to flee into the wilderness.

<https://bibleproject.com/guides/books-of-kings/>

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/character-insight-elijah/>

Elijah has been faithful to God, and God has provided for him up until this time. When he becomes afraid and flees Jezebel, he seems to have given up. What do you notice in the story? How does hearing about Elijah's moment of fear actually cause us to have hope?

Read Psalm 34 and/or Psalm 139

The book of Psalms contains 150 prayers, hymns, and meditations. Some are joy-filled, and others express profound sorrow. They serve as one Biblical model for us to determine our response to God as we worship. There are times for giving thanks, times for asking for God's help, and times for acknowledging our sadness.

<https://enterthebible.org/courses/psalms/lessons/summary-of-psalms>

Many Psalms are poems and include figurative and metaphorical language. Does that type of writing resonate with you? Why or why not?

PRAY

Ask how you can pray for each other this week. What prayer requests do you have?

Wonderful God, you didn't make faith to be still. Guide us to ask questions, to put our faith into action, and to grow together. Amen.

TAKING IT HOME

How will you remind yourself that God is near in challenging times?