

This guide is intended to be a tool to help you take steps to further your spiritual growth.

If you are not already a part of a Small Group, consider joining a group and navigate this guide together. Small Group encourages accountability and growth. If you are unable to become a part of a group, feel free to use this guide on your own.

Either way, we pray this guide inspires you to grow in your spiritual journey!

JOB: ADVERSITY TO FAVOR

March 11, 2018

START HERE!

Icebreaker (10 minutes): How would you like to be remembered by the next generation in your family?

A disciple of Christ is a member of the family of God both universally and locally. This means they have accepted Christ, identified publicly with Him in baptism, and become an active part of a local body of believers.

BE

Share how you became a Christ follower. Who mostly influenced you to accept Christ as your personal savior?

BUILD

Who do you need to share your faith with?



Scan the QR code to download the Crossroads Church app and access a digital version of the Great Comebacks Series Guide along with other great content. Search *reading plans* located on the side bar.



Reaching



OUR WORLD

"and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." - Acts 1:8

HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO REACH OUR WORLD THIS WEEK: (5-7 Minutes)

PERSONAL

Pick up an invite card at one of our campuses and use it to invite someone to the Comeback series, Easter at ECHS, or Egg Drop!

CORPORATE

Volunteer for Easter services.

Go to EasterAtECHS.info to learn more.

Drop off lightly taped and candy filled eggs this weekend.

GLOBAL

Check out short-term teams now taking applications at crossroadsonline.org/row. God is calling. Where is your place in global missions?

CROSSROADS MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Pray for Henry & Margie Janowski

Notes of encouragement to: henry.janowski@om.org



Write down in the space below the way you will focus on reaching our world this week (Personal, Corporate, or Global).

JOB: ADVERSITY TO FAVOR

(20-30 Minutes)

Take a minute to share- "Are you feeling more energized or drained in your life today?"

Most people have heard of the "patience of Job," but few people want to learn it the way Job had to. Job was a man that faced extreme adversity in his life. At one point Job had lost almost everything in his life and was tempted by many to lose his faith in God. Job chose a different route, and he trusted God rather than rejecting Him. As a result Job experienced the blessing and favor of God, and everything he lost was eventually restored.

Let's take a minute to look at the story of Job and see how we can comeback from adversity to favor.

Read Job 1:1. Describe what kind of man Job was and describe his relationship with God.

Read Job 1:13-19. How would you describe the level of adversity that Job experienced in his life?

How do most people respond when facing this much adversity?

Read Job 1:6-12. What was the cause of adversity in Job's life?

How do people often attempt to explain adversity and hardship in life?

How did Job respond to adversity according to Job 1:20, 21?

Read Job 42:10-17. How did Job receive God's favor in the end?

What types of adversity are you experiencing in life these days, and how are you responding to it?

NOTES & PRAYER REQUESTS: (10-15 Minutes)



Share and write down in the space below what your take away was today.

ELIJAH: DISCOURAGEMENT TO HOPEFULNESS

March 18, 2018

START HERE!

Icebreaker (10 minutes): What is something that you are really proud of?

A disciple of Christ will always be committed to private and public worship. They will live a lifestyle of making Jesus bigger! A disciple that worships consistently is a disciple that magnifies Christ.

BE

Describe your private time of worship. How are you studying God's word? How is your prayer life?

BUILD

Who do you need to encourage this week to be a Magnifier?



7 MARKS of a Disciple

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CORPORATE

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GLOBAL

Pray for the Haiti team serving March 31 - April 7.
Sign up for a mission trip at crossroadsonline.org/global.

CROSSROADS MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Pray for Nicole & Lee Walters, Bangladesh
Notes of encouragement to: Nicole.Walters@om.org



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ELIJAH: DISCOURAGEMENT TO HOPEFULNESS

(20-30 Minutes)

Take a minute to share- "Are you feeling more discouraged or hopeful in your life today?"

Lots of us struggle with discouragement. It is not an indictment of our walk with Christ or a sinful problem we must address. It is just a natural part of every person's life. We do, however, need to learn some practical ways of dealing with our discouragement so that we don't get caught up in it. Part of the solution is being honest about the problem. Let's take a look at how God helped Elijah through a time of deep pain and emotional turmoil.

Read 1 Kings 19:4,10. What is the difference of voicing a complaint and criticizing God? We must remember that God is Big - He can handle our griping. He does not get mad at us just because we don't understand. What do you think are some benefits to getting things off our chests?

Is there a difference between voicing a frustration and wallowing in our misery? What is the biggest difference?

How does remembering God's faithfulness in the past help us with our current discouragement?

Read 1 Kings 19:5-8. What are some physical issues that can lead to or add to discouragement and depression? How do diet or sleep habits affect our emotional well being? What are the first few things the angel of the Lord encourages Elijah to do? (Eat and sleep). Why?

Read 1 Kings 19:15. God told Elijah to go back the way he came. Why might it be important to retrace our steps that led us into discouragement?

Read 1 Kings 19:15-18. Time alone can be very helpful - even therapeutic. However, we were created for community. How do you think too much time alone might make our discouragement worse? How can being around the right kind of people help us find more hopefulness?

Read 1 Kings 19:19-21. It is easy to sit around all day and dwell on our own problems. When we turn our focus to helping others in need how can that ultimately help us?

NOTES & PRAYER REQUESTS: (10-15 Minutes)



Share and write down in the space below what your takeaway was today.

PETER: FAILURE TO PURPOSE

March 25, 2018

START HERE!

Icebreaker (10 minutes): Is there a skill or hobby that you would like to learn? Why?

A disciple of Christ is someone that is growing in their faith. Every disciple starts out as an infant in faith. The goal is not to stay an infant; the goal is to grow into an adult in the faith.

BE

How have you grown in your faith recently? What is one thing you need to do this week to grow in your faith?

BUILD

Who needs you to challenge them to grow in their faith?



7 MARKS of a Disciple

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GLOBAL

Pray for the Haiti team serving March 31 - April 7.
Sign up for a mission trip at crossroadsonline.org/global.

CROSSROADS MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Pray for Rick & Susan Harrell, Italy
Notes of encouragement to: rickharrell1@gmail.com



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PETER: FAILURE TO PURPOSE

(20-30 Minutes)

Is failure fatal? There have been times in my life where I've experienced the pain of my poor choices or actions. In these moments, it can be easy to entertain a notion that I have blown it, that God can't use me and there's no hope for restoration. I think we all face these feelings when we fail. However, God loves great comebacks, and He is at work reclaiming our story.

The apostle Peter was counted among Jesus' closest companions apart from his inner circle of three. He was the only disciple willing to walk on water and was the first to call Jesus the Christ. However, Jesus would later predict that Peter would deny him three times, which Peter refused to believe. Just as Jesus predicted, Peter denies him three times, and when Peter realizes what he'd done, he breaks down and weeps.

Yet despite his failure Jesus did not exclude him from His plans. Peter was one of the first that Jesus appeared to after his resurrection and, in a touching moment, Jesus lovingly restores Peter on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Peter would also go on to become the leader of the disciples, preaching the first gospel message seeing 3,000 saved and baptized.

What is a moment in your life in which you were most disappointed in yourself?

Read Mark 14:66-72. Why do you think Peter denied Christ? Do you think he realized what he was doing? When, if ever, have you felt that your failures had made it impossible for Christ to ever use you again? What rooster crow reminds you of failure and guilt?

Read John 21:15-25. Why do you think Jesus pressed Peter three times with the question, "Do you love me...?" If you had been Peter, by the end of the third question how would you have felt? Explain.

Read Acts 2:14-40. After reading this account and, given Peter's failure in the past, how does this encourage you that God is reclaiming your story? It has been said that failure doesn't disqualify you even if you've been following Jesus for some time? Agree or disagree? Why?

When you blow it, how do you feel afterwards? How do you think God can help you overcome a recent failure in your life?

NOTES & PRAYER REQUESTS: (10-15 Minutes)



Share and write down in the space below what your takeaway was today.

JESUS: DEFEAT TO VICTORY

April 1, 2018

START HERE!

Icebreaker (10 minutes): What kinds of things do you like to read?

A disciple of Christ is a servant. They will look for ways to serve and minister to others. A disciple understands that they have been given gifts, abilities, and talents to be used for serving others.

BE

How are you caring for others? Who have you ministered to this week?

BUILD

Is there anyone on your ministry team you need to encourage? Who on your ministry team has been missing?



7 MARKS of a Disciple

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HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO REACH OUR WORLD THIS WEEK: (5-7 Minutes)

PERSONAL

Pick up an invite card at one of our campuses and use it to invite someone to join us for the next sermon series!

CORPORATE

Volunteer for Summer eXplosion to reach the next generation.

GLOBAL

Pray for the Haiti team serving March 31 - April 7.
Sign up for a mission trip at crossroadsonline.org/global.

CROSSROADS MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

Pray for Robbie & Angela Hollister, Montenegro
Notes of encouragement to: angela.hollister@om.org



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JESUS: DEFEAT TO VICTORY

(20-30 Minutes)

Take a minute to share- "Are you feeling more encouraged or discouraged today and why?"

Hands down the greatest comeback story of all time is the story of Jesus' resurrection. Those who crucified Jesus thought they had defeated him. Little did they know that the crucifixion would give way to the resurrection and the greatest comeback ever! Jesus' resurrection smashed death, hell, and the grave. The very thing that was meant to be a defeat ended up being the greatest victory ever.

In our lives we too can experience victory in the face of what appears to be defeat. As we look and learn from Jesus, we discover the keys to victory in the face of defeat.

Read Mark 15:25 and Mark 16:6 and explain how defeat turned into victory for Jesus.

Read Acts 2:23. How was the crucifixion of Jesus part of God's plan? What does it mean to "redefine defeat?"

Have you ever known someone who experienced a defeat that actually ended up being a victory?

Read Acts 2:24. The resurrection is simply a miracle. How could a person's faith in God take what appears to be a defeat and make it a miracle?

What, if any, situations in your life have been a victory that the world would view as defeat?

Read Acts 2:32. How does having an eternal perspective instead of a temporal perspective change the way we see defeat and victory?

Read Acts 2:38. How should we respond to the truth of the resurrection?

Reaching Our World: Share any ways you have reached out personally or as a church recently. What upcoming opportunities do you have?

NOTES & PRAYER REQUESTS: (10-15 Minutes)



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