



### Comeback Week Three

**Opening Prayer:** Lord, help us to connect with one another and to you while we are here today.

**Talk It Over:** We kicked off this week's talk by joking about our cultural fascination with selfies. And while many of us may agree that we are overly interested in selfies, most of us still place high value on being able to capture important moments in life.

- Share about an awesome life event you hope to never forget. What makes that memory so important to you?
- In the midst of your regular Monday through Sunday life, what are some of the weekly things that might not feel special now, but you might one day look back on and say "I wish I knew then just how special that was"? This could be something like a specific friendship, a weekly task you get to share with your kids, or the work you're able to engage in week after week.

While we all likely value capturing good moments in life, sometimes we are stuck with scars that remind us of the pain we once faced.

- Take a minute to share about some of your physical scars and how you gained them along the way.

**Instead of reading a verse, let's recap the week's lesson we heard from the Joshua 3-4 story:**

The history of the Israelites is filled with great moments where God did amazing things. Yet, despite the incredible God sightings, we regularly see the Israelites question and doubt God's intent, faithfulness and ability. Repeatedly when the Israelites were faced with dark moments they'd panic as if 'this is the end'.

Finally, at one point in the story, right after they experienced a special miracle, we see God specifically instruct them to build a memorial so that they could always be reminded of a moment in time they saw God doing something great on their behalf.

God was inviting the Israelites to always remember what they saw in the light — even when things got dark.

- Is there a memory you can recall that can readily remind you of God's intent, faithfulness and ability?
- What might change about your day, mood or behavior if you intentionally remembered the ways in which God has shown up for you before?

**Read Romans 15:13 and Psalm 52:9**

While we are quick to become fixated on our circumstance, logic or feelings, the Bible reminds us that God wants to be focus of our hope.

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- Have you found yourself in the midst of a challenge where you realized you weren't actually placing your hope in God, but rather in something else? If so, how did you realize your hope was misplaced? What did you learn about yourself, God, and hope through that life-lesson? How has this lesson changed you?

### **Read Joshua 1:9 and Isaiah 41:10**

While we don't always know how the circumstance will work out, God promises to always be with us.

- Looking at your everyday life in this season of life, how easy or difficult is it for you to remember that God is always with you?
- In what moments are you most aware of God's presence in your life? In what moments is it hardest for you to sense God's presence?
- In what ways does it help you personally to know God is always with you?
- What are some tools you use to become more aware of God's presence or to grow more committed to trusting that God is with you whether or not you can sense him?

### **Read Ephesians 3:17**

God is not only with us, he loves us and wants us to experience his love first hand. The Israelites story we looked at earlier reminds us that God wants us to be completely aware of his intent to care for us. In other words, our God is not only for us, he wants us to live remembering he is on our side, he is in our corner, and he has our back. God wants us to be aware and confident of his love.

- When have you felt most loved and cared for by God? Describe that time in your life.
- Are there any memorials you can establish in your life to help you remember God's love for you? This might be a place you intentionally visit, a verse you post somewhere, an item you strategically place, a journal where you write in recording the ways in which God has shown up for you, a song that strikes a chord or reminds you of a special time, or anything else that helps you remember all God has done for you. If not, take the time to reflect this week and consider establishing one.

**Closing Prayer:** God, we know that things don't always go the way we want, or even the way you want, but you are constantly working for our good. Help us to grow more aware of your love and more trusting of your intent, faithfulness and ability. We want to spend our lives aware of your presence and love.