

GROWTH GUIDE / February 5, 2023

Here's a quick recap of our current series, and then some points and scriptures to help you as you discuss with your group.

Current Series: Glory Days

So often, when we think of our Glory Days, we picture old men talking about the great things they did "back in the day." But 2 Corinthians 3:18 tells us that we're being led by God from "glory to glory," and that means that our greatest story is still being written.

In Week 1, we learned that whenever we talk about the "glory days" of our past as if our best days are behind us, we reveal that we've bought the lie that this life is greater than the life to come, and nothing makes us more vulnerable to that lie than suffering. Having an eternal perspective keeps us from turning a blind eye to our suffering, and enables us to turn a wise eye to it. Until we understand how God uses suffering to reveal His glory, we'll never be able to embrace the help He gives us to stand in the face of difficult times.

This week's Big Idea: **The movement is greater than the moment.**

Key points:

The movement is greater than the moment

- Stories are made up of letters that make words that make sentences that make paragraphs that make pages that make chapters that make stories. We each have a part to play in the story.
- Our lives are letters (see 2 Corinthians 3:2). Some letters form harder words and sentences, and others form cheerful ones. But all of them form something greater than that one letter.
- When we value the moment more than the movement, we judge life as a picture instead of a movie. This "traps" people in their worst moments.
- But none of us are trapped or stuck in our worst moments!
- 2 Corinthians 3:18 reminds us that we are being transformed
- How does it feel to know that our best days are ahead of us?

The point of suffering is to remind us that this life isn't the point

- None of us likes to suffer, but often suffering is the doorway to glory
- Read John 12:23; John 13:31-32; and John 17:1-5
- Jesus spoke these words on the way to the cross
- The glory before us is seen through the cross brought to us
- Jesus saw beyond the cross to the joy before Him (see Hebrews 12:2-3)
- We need to have an eternal perspective when it comes to pain and suffering
- 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 / current pain achieves us eternal glory
- An eternal perspective doesn't turn a blind eye to our suffering; it turns a wise eye to it
- How do these truths help you deal with the current troubles you're facing?