

GROWTH GUIDE / February 19, 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.

Over the last 2 weeks, we've heard testimonies from two members at The Gathering that addressed the struggle to break out of negative thought loops, anxiety, depression, and even suicidal thoughts. But both stories also focused on the redemptive power of the gospel, and how the work of Jesus on the cross overcame the enemy who wants to try and overcome us.

Here are two key takeaways from these testimonies:

"We're all still in process, but it's in the waiting that we get to show how hungry we are." - Natasha Dennis

- Read Psalm 130:5-6
 - Who or what is the writer waiting for?
 - What does the writer do while he is waiting?
 - How do you think a night watchman would wait for the morning?
- Read Psalm 37:34. What are we told to do while we wait?
- Read Micah 7:7-8
 - What phrases show the confidence (or hunger, to use Natasha's word!) that the writer has as he waits? (Hint: look at all the "will" phrases!!)
 - What does it mean to watch for something "expectantly?"
 - Verse 8 says "though I fall I will rise." How does knowing the victorious end help us deal with the pain of now?

"God would not command what we cannot do." - Amy Phibbs

- There are 365 "do not fear" commands in the Bible - one for every day of the year! Why would God tell us that so many times?
- Read Joshua 1:9. What command did God give Joshua?
- Read John 14:15, 2 John 1:6, and 1 John 5:2-3.
 - Based on these scriptures, does God expect us to do what He commands?
 - What fuels our commandment keeping?
- Read 1 John 4:18
 - How can love-based obedience push fear out of our lives?
- Read Philippians 4:8.
 - The Greek word for "dwell" means "to reckon, count, compute, weigh, meditate on."
 - The Blue Letter Bible app says about this word: "This word deals with reality. If I reckon (logizomai) that my bank [account] has \$25 in it, it has \$25 in it. Otherwise I am deceiving myself. **This word refers more to fact than supposition or opinion.**"
 - What do you know deeply about Jesus that can feed your faith and starve your fears?