

# A SERIES OF ~~UN~~FORTUNATE EVENTS ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS

- Being focused on the Unfortunate makes us blind to God's  **blessings**.

## Focusing on Unfortunate circumstances:

- Can bring  **discouragement**.
- Can create  **doubts**.
- Reenforces our  **fears**.

## Remember, in unfortunate circumstances:

- God is working  **goodness** into your life.

And we know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him, and are called according to his good purpose." Romans 8:28 (NCV)

...we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good. Romans 8:28 (MSG)

Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. Psalm 23:4 (NLT)

- We experience God's goodness to us when we acknowledge His  **presence** with us.  
... you are close beside me. Psalm 23:4 (NLT)

The Lord is always good. He is always loving and kind, and his faithfulness goes on and on to each succeeding generation." Psalm 100:5 (TLB)

Those who suffer from leprosy must tear their clothing and leave their hair uncombed. They must cover their mouth and call out, 'Unclean! Unclean!' As long as the serious disease lasts, they will be ceremonially unclean. They must live in isolation in their place outside the camp. Leviticus 13:45-46 (NLT)

While Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem, he was going through the area between Samaria and Galilee. As he came into a small town, ten men who were lepers met him there. They did not come close to Jesus but called to him, "Jesus! Master! Have mercy on us!" When Jesus saw the men, he said, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." As the ten men were going, they were healed. Luke 17:11-14 (NCV)

- They all displayed faith in Jesus with their  **obedience** to Jesus.

...Jesus told them. "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.

Matthew 17:20 (NLT)

- Every "fortunate event" with Jesus was an expression of  **faith** in Jesus.

When one of them saw that he was healed, he went back to Jesus, praising God in a loud voice. Then he bowed down at Jesus' feet and thanked him. (And this man was a Samaritan.) Jesus said, "Weren't ten men healed? Where are the other nine? Is this Samaritan the only one who came back to thank God?" Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well." Luke 17:15-19 (NCV)

## Definition of gratitude:

- The  **action** of appreciation for something received.
- Gratitude is a  **response** to the kindness of another.
- Gratitude is never  **silent**.

## What makes us grateful:

- We recognize the  **goodness** in life as a gift from God.

When one of them saw that he was healed, he went back to Jesus, praising God in a loud voice. Then he bowed down at Jesus' feet and thanked him. Luke 17:15 (NCV)

Every good and perfect gift is from above... James 1:17

15 I cannot count the times when you have faithfully rescued me from danger. I will tell everyone how good you are, and of your constant, daily care. 16 I walk in the strength of the Lord God. I tell everyone that you alone are just and good. Psalm 71:15-16 (TLB)

**WARNING:** Your relationship with God is personal, but not  **private**.

## What makes us grateful:

- We follow our heart not the  **crowd**

Jesus said, "Weren't ten men healed? Where are the other nine? Luke 17:17 (NCV)

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever. Psalm 106:1 (NLT)

Let all that I am praise the LORD; may I never forget the good things he does for me. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies. He fills my life with good things. Psalm 103:2-5

## Action Steps:

- Take an inventory of God's  **goodness** in your life.

He fills my life with good things. Psalm 103:5

Gratitude is our response to  **God** in our life.

- Spend time  **thanking** God for His goodness.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6 (ESV)



## TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

### Questions for Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Do you think that because we focus on our Unfortunate circumstance we become blind to God's blessings in our life?
- Why does acknowledging God presence allow us to experience His goodness? Is there a time you have done that?
- Do you believe that God is working goodness into your life during unfortunate circumstances?
- Read through the story of the lepers in Luke 17:11-19. Is there anything that stands out to you? Do you think all 10 lepers displayed faith? Explain why you believe this way?
- Talk through the definition of gratitude. Do you believe gratitude is not silent? Why?
- How well do you recognize the goodness in life as a gift from God?
- Do you believe that gratitude is a choice? Why do believe that? How intentional do we really have to be?
- How can following the crowd prevent us from gratitude? Is following the crowd a temptation for you? Explain.
- What does it mean to follow our heart?
- How have you been doing this week with the action steps?

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