

EMERGING FROM THE STORM

Week Five—Reach Out

DAY ONE

As you begin this week's reflections, ask the Lord to help you see the people around you: to see the hurting, the broken, those in need of mercy, grace, and love. Ask him to help you see them, and to help you love them like he has loved you.

Read Deuteronomy 10:12-22 and, if you took notes during Sunday's message, review your sermon notes.

What stands out to you? How are you being impacted by the text and/or message from Sunday?

This week, we will spend time looking inward, upward, and outward. Today, we will focus on "inward"—remembering who we were and who we are.

In Deuteronomy 10:19, the Lord reminds the Israelites who they were before he rescued them out of Egypt ("you were sojourners in the land of Egypt"). Who were you before faith in Jesus? What were you like? What might you have been like had you continued in life apart from faith in him?

Re-read Deuteronomy 10:21. What are the "great and terrifying things" that God has done for you and in you and even through you?

Conclude your time today by giving thanks to God for setting his love on you.

DAY TWO

Begin by asking the Lord to help you see him today, as we spend our time looking “upward.”

Read 1 Corinthians 13.

What stands out to you in this text?

Re-read verses 4-7. How have you seen this text used or preached? What has been the primary ways this text has been applied?

What if this text was rooted in God’s love toward us? How does that impact how you read it?

Read the text one more time, then list the descriptions of love below.

Where have you seen God treat you with that kind of love? Work through each of the descriptions you just listed from the text, and consider how God has shown love like that toward you. Be as specific as you can (for example: name a specific instance when God was patient with you; name a specific time when you saw his kindness toward you).

Close your time by giving thanks to the Lord for his love.

DAY THREE

As you begin the reflection today, ask the Lord to help you see those around you in need of his compassion and comfort.

Today we are going to return to 2 Corinthians 1, a text we used in week three of this series. Read 2 Corinthians 1:1-11.

What stands out to you in this text? What's impacting you in it?

In week three, we focused on the second half of this text, verses 8-11. There, we saw that God uses suffering in order "to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead" (v. 9). Today, we will focus our attention on another way that God uses suffering in our lives.

Re-read verses 3-7. What reasons does the apostle Paul offer for suffering in his life?

What sufferings have you endured recently or are enduring?

How has God comforted you in the midst of that suffering?

How might God use this suffering and comfort in your life to bring comfort to those around you in their time of suffering?

Use the rest of the time to pray for those in your life who are suffering. Ask the Lord to give you compassion for them, and ask him to show you ways that you might offer to them comfort in their suffering, just as he has comforted you in your suffering.

DAY FOUR

Today, we will review the past five weeks of reflection, asking the Lord to seal in us the things he has been showing us. First, ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you and to seal in your heart the things he is saying to you.

Take some time to review these past five weeks of reflections. Flip through the weeks and any answers or thoughts you've written down.

What was the most meaningful text to you?

What was meaningful about that text? How was the Lord speaking to you through it?

What has been most significant for you through these past five weeks of reflections?

What is one thing you want to do in response?

What help do you need to do that? What support? How will you get that support?

Spend the rest of your time giving thanks to the Lord for speaking to you, for helping you slow down and reflect. Then ask him for courage and faithfulness to carry out whatever it is you feel him leading you to do in response to your time in his Word these past five weeks.

DAY FIVE

Use today to catch up if you missed one of the days this week.

If you are caught up, use your time today to read and meditate on one of the passages that most stood out to you or impacted you from these past five weeks.