

TRANSFORMED THROUGH LIFE'S DISRUPTIONS!

Scripture used: Deuteronomy 1:6-7 NLT: 6 *"When we were at Mount Sinai, the Lord our God said to us, 'You have stayed at this mountain long enough. 7 It is time to break camp and move on. Go to the hill country of the Amorites and to all the neighboring regions—the Jordan Valley, the hill country, the western foothills,[a] the Negev, and the coastal plain. Go to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon, and all the way to the great Euphrates River.*

OVERVIEW

This week, the message is part two in a five-part sermon series entitled, "Transformed." The big idea for this sermon series is that a living relationship with Jesus can transform our lives in amazing ways -- and God can even use disruptions in our lives to bring about growth and transformation, inviting us to confront old behaviors and patterns of thought. Disruptions may make it seem as though our lives have suddenly become unglued or cause us to question God. (examples: loved ones can betray our loyalties, bad news can afflict our health and plans for the future, and NBCC recently found out that we need to find a new gathering space before the end of June)! But Moses' message to the Israelites can be our encouragement today: It is time to break camp and move on!

Disruptions like that can cause us to question, "Where is God in all of this?" Questioning God's motives and actions is normal in the face of disruptions. We are never too distressed to be transformed by Christ and can lead powerful, world changing lives if we do not let our fears hold us back! We are hope filled! *We cling to the truth: we trust God is for us, and not against us! (See Romans 8:31).*

KEY POINTS

The Big Idea: Doing life with Jesus can transform us in amazing ways.

Paradigm shift: We trust God is for us, not against us! We must incorporate this truth into our very core thoughts and beliefs.

1. Life with Jesus transforms me as I cast aside fear/anxiety:
 - a. **Name it.** Don't deny or bury your fearfulness, but acknowledge it.
 - b. **See what God desires for me.** Seek God's face. Be honest with your God. Ask Him!
 - c. **Step towards it.** Trust in Him to deliver and guide you through the entire process and in all the various details involved.
2. Life with Jesus transforms me through life's disruptions:
 - a. **I look for God's involvement.** Be watchful to see what God is up to! Believe He is for us.
 - b. **I listen for God's guidance.** Act on God's guidance as it is revealed to you. Trust Him to continuously lead your steps. Step forward in faith!
3. Life with Jesus transforms my response to life's disruption:
 - a. **I prepare to say goodbye (well).** Respond to changes with grace, mercy and sweetness.
 - b. **I "move on" toward an exciting tomorrow.** If we belong to God then we know God has already picked out the next place for us. We want what God wants for us! We move forward with a purpose. Be excited! God is waiting on us.
 - c. **I expect both difficulty and success.** Moving forward takes actions and actions mean work - sometimes hard work. Sometimes it won't be easy. Believe that God is for us!

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR:** Disruptions can cause us to question God's motives and actions. Share a time when you faced a disruption that caused you to question God's motives. What was the outcome of that disruption? In retrospect, can you see God's intentions for allowing the disruption?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND:** Recall times when a disruption caused you to leave a job, home, relationship, etc. How did you leave? Burning bridges or turning pages?
- 3) **DO:** Identify 1 personal commitment you will make with either the move (looking out for new facility) or 1 way you will serve starting at the new place since more volunteers may be needed...