

HINDSIGHT WEEK 2

DAY 1: READ EXODUS 32

What happens when we forget who God is, the promises He's made or the things He's done for us? Our perception of the past can tend to look a lot rosier than it was when we were when we were going through it. Practically and spiritually speaking, how can we avoid falling into the same sinful perception of the Israelites?

DAY 2: READ EXODUS 33

After everything that happened with the unfaithful Israelites and their betrayal of God, what does Moses do next? When we find ourselves perplexed, angry or certain of an outcome because of our past, we can (and should!) turn to God, in our actions, words and the attitude of our heart. How does Moses' prayer life with God tangibly affect the situation for him and his people? Let's be a people avid to pray to God. Take time to pray for those around you in whatever way you feel the Holy Spirit prompting you.

DAY 3: READ KINGS 17:6 - 18:36

When we are confronted with the consequences of long-term sinful or unhealthy behavior, our tendency can be like Hezekiah's initial reaction. Judah being confronted with annihilation by the Assyrians was a consequence of generations of sinful rejection of God and His covenant with His people. Hezekiah, when faced with the situation, initially sought to negotiate and navigate around the impending doom; in doing so, he defaced God's temple, removing the gold off the Temple doors so he could try and save Judah with politics and bargaining chips. Does it work? When we're confronted with our past (or even our family's past), what is your first instinct? Why? Does your response line up with God's character and behavior toward you in the past? Why? Why not? What needs to be different?

DAY 4: READ 2 KINGS 18:28 - 19:37

Where does Hezekiah turn when he hears the Assyrian messenger's words? What does the Lord tell Isaiah? When Hezekiah receives the next messages from Assyria, what does he do? When we find ourselves in these hard situations with no solution or likelihood of change, let's be like Hezekiah turn to God in prayer, confident that He listens and has all authority everywhere. How does the Lord respond to Isaiah & Hezekiah? What does God go on to do? Remember God's character, even when we're reaping the consequences of our past.

DAY 5: READ ROMANS 8

Notice every time Paul writes about our past and their consequences? Why does this consistency give us reason to trust God? Look at verses 28-30. Paul is not talking about earthly, physical comfort; our great hope is conforming to Christ and, in so doing, enjoying closer fellowship with God, participating in the production of lasting spiritual fruit for the Kingdom of God and experiencing the "glorification" of God finishing the great work He began in us. Let verses 31-39 assure you of the confidence (and justification) we have in Christ because of God's unflinching character.

DAY 6: READ 1 PETER 1

Verses 10-12 paint an interesting picture of what it looks like to serve God with our lives. Just like the prophets, in their obedience to God, were part of a beautiful heritage that we now get to experience because of Christ, our lifestyle of obedience to Christ is now a part of that same heritage for future generations. How have you seen the beautiful results of others' obedience to God in the past manifest in front of you/others? Why, then, is it important to cling to Jesus in every present moment? Personally speaking, what do you hope your relationship with Christ will cultivate in the future? Prayerfully consider making steps to more intentionally allow it to happen.

DAY 7: READ ROMANS 10-11

Time to use our hindsight and remember everything we read and discussed during the past 6 days. How do we see the completeness of God's plan (Romans 8:28) demonstrated throughout the failures and faithfulness of the past? Take time to thank God for His awesome plan and unrelenting faithfulness.