

# WHEN LIFE DOESN'T GO AS PLANNED, HOW DO I MAKE THE MOST OF IT?

## BIG IDEA

When things are going wrong in your life, reach out for Jesus to help you through it.

## OPENER

Have you ever had a time in your life when you “did everything right,” but still did not get the outcome you were hoping for? What steps did you take as a result?

## SCRIPTURE

Read John 14:6 and 1 Timothy 2:5 as a group.

## QUESTIONS

1. Al Unser, Jr. shared he had always believed in God and prayed to Him before each race. However, when he stepped out of the race car, he left God in the car and went on with his life. As a believer, talk about an area or areas of your life, where you stepped out of your car, left God behind and went on until the next time you needed Him. What steps can you or did you take to “bridge the gap?” (see Proverbs 3:5-6).
2. As Al spoke of his substance abuse, he also talked about his journey to recovery as a process. For him, it began in 2002 and continues until May 24, 2019, when he was “free.” Last week, Pastor John spoke about the nation of Israel facing the walls of Jericho. The Israelites did as God directed, marched around the walls, shouted and the walls fell! Read Joshua 6:20-21, what did the Israelites have to do after the wall fell? Share.
3. Al shared honestly with Pastor John about his substance abuse disorder and because of his new relationship with Christ Jesus, he has found freedom and been able to overcome step by step and day by day. Reading and studying the Word has helped him overcome his sin and deepen his relationship with Jesus. Share an issue or problem (sin) that you have dealt with in your life. How do you relate to this as you have gone step by step to overcome problems in your life? What steps did you take to “overcome,” deepen your relationship with God, and move closer to being a disciple (not just a believer)?
4. We all are in a race and the finish line defines where we go after this life (2 Timothy 4:6-8; 1 Corinthians 2:9). Explain what “finishing the race and remaining faithful” looks like in your life?
5. In what ways are you a new creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)?

## TAKEAWAY

- When circumstances in my life are out of control, Jesus is the bridge to God and freedom!
- A race is one turn at a time. In life it is one moment, one day at a time. Hold onto Jesus' hand through all life's moments.
- We need to move from just being a "believer" to having a deeper relationship with God through Jesus.
- It is never too late to tap into Christ! Walk with Jesus, study His Word and be transformed!

## REFERENCES

John 15:13

1 Corinthians 9:24

Ephesians 1:3-14; 2:1-10

Hebrews 2:14-16, 4:14-16

## DIGGING DEEPER

- What is the difference between a believer in Jesus and a disciple of Jesus (Matthew 7:21-23; John 14:15)? How do you become a disciple?
- Al Jr. shared that he always believed in God, but there was a gap (something was missing) in his relationship with God. If Al Jr. had shared this with you, would you be able to help him "bridge the gap" to receive Christ? Talk about how the following verses could help: Romans 3:23, 6:23a, 5:8, 6:23b, 10:9, 8:1.