

GROUPS

This weekend, Steve and Sam Allen share their powerful testimony on navigating and growing in the midst of crisis. Being one who hasn't received his breakthrough in healing, Steve shares his journey of keeping his eyes on Jesus, where to find peace, and how to grow in the Lord and in our relationships.

GETTING STARTED

Besides the COVID pandemic, what is one significant crisis you've faced more recently? How did that crisis affect your relationships (i.e. with your spouse, immediate family, extended family coworkers, etc.)?

GO DEEPER

1. What scriptures do you most commonly go to in times of crises? What is God saying to you in these verses, and how does it strengthen your faith?
2. Read Philippians 2:14-16. Steve mentioned this passage when explaining that gratitude creates a heart of expectation. If we are instructed to do everything without complaining, what should our perspective and attitude be in the midst of a crisis? How does gratitude affect or transform the way we perceive and navigate a crisis we're facing?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Steve says that often with the promises of God, there is not a timestamp. We have to trust in Him; not a formula. He also quotes Hebrews 11:6 that *without faith, it is impossible to please God*. As you walk through seasons of waiting on God and His promises, what are you tempted to do – apart from Him – in order to produce a result or receive an answer sooner? How have you learned to trust God rather than a formula?
2. Peace is not the absence of conflict or crises, but it is the presence of God. What do you think that means? What does it look like for you to pursue and encounter the presence of God to receive that peace?
3. Crisis is not meant to be navigated alone. Steve and Sam have modeled that we should invite people into our lives, walk in transparency and humility, and invite people to pray for us when we are facing a crisis. Who are your go-to people that will truly pray for you, encourage you, and speak life and wisdom into your crises? How are those types of connections fostered within your group?

PRACTICE IT NOW

Take time as a group to pray for any current crises that group members are going through. Ask God for Spirit-infused perspective and for the ability to experience His presence and peace. Practice expressing gratitude in order to create and receive a heart of expectation for what God will do.

BLESS

We are surrounded by people who are facing significant challenges right now. Who can you purposefully listen to and simply encourage this week?