

Defining Moments

Week 2 | Danny Cox

BOTTOM LINE

Take a step of faith even though you can't see the path in front of you. Trust God to show the way.

GOAL OF THE GROUP

For this series our goal is to look at a number of defining moments and see how God used them in the lives of people to transform them, love them, encourage them and turn pain into a platform. Today, we are discussing Danny Cox's defining moment around adopting three teenage daughters.

SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 11:1-3 and Mark 8:1-21 – Hebrews chapter 11 gives us the Biblical definition of faith and shows us great examples of faith. Mark 8 is a story of needing to trust God but not having the faith to do so.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share:** Is there a defining moment in your life when you faced a difficult situation and your only choice was to trust God to show you the way? If so, how did this situation shape you and your relationship with God?
- Read Mark 8:1-21 and Discuss:** Jesus asked four questions in this passage. Why do you think Jesus asks these particular questions?
 - What do you have in your hands?*
 - What do you have in your heart?*
 - What do you see with your eyes?*
 - What do you hold in your mind?*
- Mark 8:4-5 talks about **provision**. In our faith journey, God simply asks us to give him what we have. We are not responsible for how God uses or increases what we have.
 - What comes to mind when you think about "provision"?
 - What do you have in your hands that you aren't giving to God to multiply or create something more?
- Mark 8:17 talks about **trust**. Jesus challenges the condition of our hearts. Many times, when we experience something miraculous there is a human tendency to reason it away over a period of time.
 - Can you think of a situation you view differently now? Perhaps you reasoned it away as coincidence or bad luck then, but see it differently now?
 - What part of your life are you not trusting God to do something miraculous?
- Mark 8:18 talks about **faith**. Walking by faith requires us to trust Him for the outcome then believe that there is more than meets the eye.
 - What barriers compromise your faith when you're challenged to walk with God's vision and not our own?
 - What part of your life do you need to see the way God sees it?
- Mark 8:18 also talks about **remembering God's promises**. As humans we tend to forget the times when something beautiful happened and how God provided in the past.
 - Our memory is one of our greatest tools in our faith, but can you think of a time when Satan used your memory against you? What did you do?
 - What memory of God do you have that sustains you in your life?

**"For we live by faith, not by sight."
2 Corinthians 5:7**



TRY THIS

Are you walking in faith? You can do it this day forward. When we have trouble trusting God we often lack divine understanding, face fears, and calculate probability. God's Word helps us "live by faith, and not by sight". Pray this scripture over your day.

John 15:5 – Admit you can do nothing without God

Psalm 50:15 – Pray for help

Psalm 106:1 – Thank God for His provision and goodness

Defining Moments

Week 1 | Andrew Kim

BOTTOM LINE

Our Pain can become a Platform Through God's Presence and Provision!

GOAL OF THE GROUP

For this series our goal is to look at a number of defining moments and see how God used them in the lives of people to transform them, love them, encourage them and turn pain into a platform. Today, we are discussing Andrew Kim's defining moment around the loss of his dad.

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 1:8-11, 2 Corinthians 12:7-9a, 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 - In the book of 2 Corinthians, where Paul is the writer, we read about how he experienced a defining moment in his life. It was a moment where Paul learned to trust God in the midst of a difficult circumstances.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Share:** When was a time that you had to struggle through something difficult to experience something significant in the end? (studying extra on a test, putting extra hours in at work for a project, asking your future wife on multiple dates before she said yes)
2. Is there a defining moment in your life where you faced difficult or heartbreak times and asked the question "why"? If so, how did that situation shape you and your relationship with God?
3. **Read & Discuss:**
 - a. Read: 2 Corinthians 1:8-11. (Read the summary at the top to give some context)
 - b. What do you notice about how Paul described his situation?
 - c. What do you notice about how God brings redemption and purpose in the midst of pain?
 - d. How is Paul's pain a platform for us learning how to "TRUST GOD" in the middle of difficult moments, even if we aren't taken out of them?
4. **Discuss:**
 - a. If God asked you this question: "You have to choose who to put your trust in for the rest of your life and you have 2 choices, you or me, who would you choose?" You know you; you know your hang-ups, weaknesses, and insecurities.
 - b. What makes it difficult to trust God in moments of difficulty?
 - c. When was a time that you did trust God (even if you were doubtful) and his way turned out better? What did you learn at that moment?
 - d. Look at 2 Corinthians 1:9 - How is God teaching Paul about how the way God rescues us doesn't just mean being taken out of a situation but sometimes walking WITH us THROUGH the situation?
 - e. Do you notice how Paul references the help that he felt from the prayers of friends in 2 Corinthians 1:11? What does he say about their prayers?
 - f. How would our lives be different if we TRUSTED God in the midst of our pain, SOUGHT Him for direction and followed Him as we PRAYED for help instead of just trying to get through it ourselves? How would our perspective shift? And what would we need to let go of to do that?

Our Pain can become a Platform Through
God's Presence and Provision!



TRY THIS

1. *Pray for each other this week. Write down the prayer requests and put them in a bowl and have everyone pray for one other person in the group.*
2. *Choose 1 step to take towards Trusting God in the midst of a difficult situation today!*