

How To Take A Hit

Week 2 – November 8, 2020

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:9, Exodus 33:14, Deuteronomy 31:8, Isaiah 41:10, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Grab your Bible and a few people to connect with. Look up the verses below and share your thoughts. It's that easy!

Share: Read the following the statement: Our times of greatest growth can come during our driest seasons. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9, Exodus 33:14, Deuteronomy 31:8, Isaiah 41:10, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 together: Take turns reading if you prefer. Enjoy the different Bible translations we each read.

Discuss the following context:

We don't know exactly how long Joseph was in the pit, but when you're in a deep, dry, dark pit, a minute can feel like an eternity of loneliness and abandonment. The text points out that the pit "had no water in it" – it was empty. Experiences like Joseph's where we take a punch to the gut can quickly turn into seasons of dryness with no water. What previously has brought us comfort, joy, or satisfaction suddenly feels dried up. Even our relationship with Jesus can start to feel this way; like an empty pit with no water in it. It had to have been a shock for Joseph to find himself thrown into the well by the people he had just told would one day bow down to him. But maybe the pit wasn't just a punch to the gut ... perhaps it was the beginning of Joseph's preparation for God's greater purpose for his life.

Share your thoughts about following questions:

1. It seems that an ongoing part of walking with God is Him exposing the places in our lives where we're trying to live dependent on *something* or *someone* other than Him.
 - a. Have you ever struggled to believe that God is truly enough? That He is sufficient when it feels like everything and everyone else fails you?
 - b. What have you made "god" other than God? In other words, what are you tempted to depend on more than God Himself? (Ex: success, work, friends, people's approval, kids, reputation, church, myself)
2. We often evaluate God's presence and work in our lives based on our circumstances. However, what do the Scriptures tell us about God's presence, regardless of our circumstances? Reread Exodus 33:14, Deuteronomy 31:8, and Isaiah 41:10. Which of these promises is most significant to you in this season? Why?
3. In seasons of dry times God is not only present, but possibly doing some of His greatest work in our hearts, character building, and preparation for purpose. During Joseph's "pit times" God grew him in humility, integrity, perseverance, wisdom, patience, and trust of who God is. Share about a time that at first felt like a pit, but looking back you're able to see how God was growing you. What did he cultivate in your life in that season? Or if you feel like you're currently in a pit season, can you see or sense what God is growing in you?

Pray together: Ask each other to share what is on your heart today. Confess the times we put our dependence in something or someone else. Thank God for his faithfulness in going before us, helping us, and simply being with us in our pits. Ask Him to reveal how He wants to grow and cultivate our hearts and character in this season, and invite Him to show us what He is preparing us for. Help us to believe He is fully sufficient.