



Week 11 | Working Through Your Past: Viewing Our Stories Redemptively Gospel Community Leaders Guide

Prepare

As you look ahead to your meeting this week, prepare to share personally about where God has been at work in your story and ways He has healed and restored you. Leading in this way will give others the freedom to open up about their stories.

Pray

As you begin, remind yourself and your group that there is power in Jesus' name and that He came to bring healing to us. Pray in faith that every member of your group would be open to Jesus healing and redeeming their stories. Pray specifically for healing in each individual's: marriage, family, thought life, habits, and sense of worth. Remembering that not all of the past is negative, thank God for the work He has done in the lives of individuals in your group.

Encourage

Encourage your group of the following truths:

Healing is a slow process - We are all on a journey of working through our pasts, unlearning lessons we learned early on, and experiencing God's redemption of our stories. This is a slow journey--it won't be complete after hearing a sermon or after this week's exercises. Try not to get frustrated with yourself when you find yourself slipping into old habits or mindsets (and try

not to get frustrated with others either!). Instead, thank God for being with you as He transforms and restores you.

Be open to hearing from the Holy Spirit - As we think through the past, some memories (both good and bad) are going to come up more naturally than others. As you go through the exercises this week, spend time prayerfully asking the Spirit to reveal things about your past--and your interpretations of the past--that don't come to mind as easily. He may want to remind you of good things He has done that you have forgotten about, or He may want to heal difficult aspects of your past that you have ignored.

Discuss

Discuss this week's sermon, the following passage, and questions with your group.

I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. - 1 Timothy 1:12-16

- **How have you experienced the presence of God in the enjoyable times of your life? How have you experienced God's presence in tough times?**
- **If you feel comfortable, share a time you've experienced God's healing.**
- **How has the healing you have experienced from God helped you bring healing to others?**

