

# TURNING POINTS

AFTER LIFE GOES BAD

## Live Broken-Hearted in Grace,

Being a Blessing to Everyone You Can - For The Glory of God  
Week of October 9, 2016

These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

### Message Recap:

#### Read Matthew 14:13-18

After life goes bad, which way will you turn? Will you turn inward to yourself and live in bitterness, anger and regret, or will you turn outward. If you go to the good of God when life turns bad, you will be filled with his love and grace which will allow you to turn to others, pouring out God's love, mercy, grace, peace, and comfort into the broken world around you. What you do with your pain will determine just about everything in your life and in the lives of those around you. Turn to Jesus and allow him to take the pain and turn it into something else. Then turn around and be a blessing to others who have been or are going through what God just helped you through.

### Pray

Jesus, life is just hard sometimes. But instead of turning inward, where I am overcome with anger and frustration, I turn to you. Fill me with your healing, your love, your compassion, your peace. Help me overcome my brokenness, and then lead me to others who need to know your comfort.

### Getting Started

- How are you doing with your 15-day challenge? Do you have a neat experience from this challenge that you can share with your group?
- Share about a time when you were hurting and someone helped and comforted you.

### Listening Deeply

1. Read Matthew 14:13-18 aloud. What happened just before verse 13? Why was it significant that Jesus went off to be alone?
2. In Matthew 14:14, Jesus had compassion on the crowd; how did Jesus go from being sad about John the Baptist to having compassion on the crowd? What did he do because of his compassion?
3. Why do you think Jesus made the choice to turn outward and heal the sick in the crowd instead of retreating away from them? What can you learn and apply to your own reactions to sorrow, grief, and other things that make life bad?
4. Read Matthew 14:18. How can you apply this sentence to your brokenness? What will happen if you bring it to Jesus?
5. The energy of "bad" when life goes wrong is powerful, consuming, and progressive. But so is the energy of hope when we go to God's good. Discuss these different energies and the affects they can have on life.
6. In our turning point decisions, we each decide whether heaven or hell wins the battle for our attention. Describe a time when you allowed either heaven or hell to win when you made a turning point decision. What was the outcome?
7. This week, how will you live in grace and be a blessing to others for the glory of God?

### Living Wide in Jesus

After life goes bad, you have a choice to make. You can let the bad of the situation overcome you, and live your life in bitterness and anger or you can turn to the good of God, allowing him to fill you up with his grace and mercy so you can bless others in turn. How are you living your life? If you need to stop turning inward, write a prayer on the back of this sheet asking God to help you turn to him instead.