

KEY SCRIPTURE

Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

6 And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Reverse Poem

I am broken beyond repair,
And I refuse to believe
That God has a plan for me.
It's clear
I'm defined by my failures.
It's a lie to think
God will finish the work He
started in me."
I am certain
God has forgotten me.(?)

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Romans 12:18 (NLT)

18 Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

Psalm 46:10 (NLT)

10 "Be still, and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world."

Exodus 14:14 (NLT)

14 The Lord himself will fight for you. Just stay calm."

START TALKING

The obvious question to ask to get us talking is "Did you watch the Superbowl?" What did you think of the game? Did you like the commercial? Do you have a favorite commercial?

START DISCUSSING

DEPRESSION / DOUBT

There are times we want to give up. Discouragement, doubt, depression, disappointment occupy our thoughts. We can think of a dozen reasons to quit and struggle to come up with a reason to keep going. God speaks to this both by examples (David, Moses) and statements throughout Scripture. Discuss the following:

"Your story isn't over, because God's work is not finished." Philippians 1:6

Read the Reverse Poem in each direction (2nd time the beginning line is a question)

INADEQUACY

There is a crisis in our culture of measuring ourselves by someone else's standards. Social Media is has exasperated the problem, but it has always been an issue. The Word can rescue us from this kind of thinking. Discuss the following:

"You are God's masterpiece." Ephesians 2:10

BREAK DOWN OF RELATIONSHIPS

Relations can break down for many reasons. A misunderstanding, neglect, conflict, mistreatment and everything in between. The important question to ask is, "are we taking action to restore broken relationships?" The process can be difficult, we may need to admit wrongs, forgive a hurt, or learn to tolerate differences. But in the end God is glorified and we can enjoy the peace and joy of a renewed relationship. Discuss the following:

"No matter how broken the relationship may feel, With God — There is always hope! Romans 12:18; Psalm 133:1

What other verses give insight into restoring relationships?

PEACE

"Too busy, too much to do, too little time, too many responsibilities, too many people counting on me" Yet God promises a "peace beyond understanding. Sometimes we need help, and sometimes we need to think clearly about our priorities and sense of balance. Discuss the following: Asking for help isn't weakness; it is wisdom.

Being still isn't about doing nothing; it's about surrendering everything. Romans 46:10; Exodus 14:14