

---

---

# BETTER FOR IT

---

---

## Part 1: Mad Max Got It Wrong

Most of us are feeling ready to get back to “normal,” but to simply revert to our old habits and ways of being after this trying season seems like... a waste? As Andy put it, *pain without gain would be a shame*. So what opportunities for improvement have the last couple of months highlighted in your life? What relational and financial habits finally caught up to you during this time? What would a better plan look like moving forward? Don't just get through it. Be better for it.

### Start Talking

1. What was the first thing you really started missing during social distancing? Was it what you expected?
2. If you could go back and tell yourself one thing during the first days of social distancing, what would it be? Why?

### Looking Back

1. What did you do this week to remind yourself that every breath we take in this life is contingent upon the grace of God?
2. Were you able to turn situations of uncertainty into opportunities to worship by surrendering your illusions of control?
3. How did you do when it came to being conscious of opportunities to grow your character when hard things happened this past week?
4. Did you experience any moments of peace over the past few days? When?



### **What About You?**

1. Where have you felt the most pressure during this season: Financially? Relationally? Spiritually? Something else?
2. Is there anything you should have been doing that would have better prepared you for what we are currently experiencing?
3. Which aspects of your life have adjusted to this present difficulty surprisingly well? Why?
4. Kate Bowler says that because we tend to think life owes us success, there's a little "prosperity gospel" in all of us. Have you found yourself resenting God for not delivering on things you think you deserve? When?

### **Look It Up**

*Read the Following Passages: Proverbs 25: 28*

1. What role did walls play for cities in the ancient world?
2. What would it have been like to be in a city whose defenses were failing during that time?
3. What parallels do you think the writer of Proverbs is trying to draw between self-control and a system of defense?
4. What does self-control keep us from? What does it preserve for us?

### **Putting It All Together**

1. How can you ensure that you don't (to quote C.S. Lewis, here) "leap back to the toys," once the threat is withdrawn this time around?
2. What are you going to be tempted to re-embrace once things go back to "normal?"
3. What can you begin doing now to ensure you will be 'better for it' later?
4. What "Defense Systems" or habits do you wish you had implemented before this all started?
5. What would it look like to start tangibly implementing those habits this week?
6. What physical object are you using to create a reminder of this season? What do you hope to carry away from this time?

