

## Take Away – Soul Trek: It is Finished

Text: 2 Corinthians 4:8-10

Date: 10-31-21



### With your group...

Answer each of the following questions prompted by the text and today's sermon.

1. React to: "It is finished. I've had a very good life. Yet, I realize that all of life is me either approaching a wall, at the wall, or on the other side of the wall...with another wall to come. Life is hard. Trouble is inevitable."
2. What is the highest "wall" that you have faced in your life? Share it with your small group and describe how God carried you over it.
3. In what ways is constantly reminding yourself of "the fragility of life" a healthy thing to do?
4. React to: "'The wall' is best described as 'our will meeting God's will face to face.' We are then left with a decision. Will we surrender and let God direct our lives? Trying harder will only keep us stuck looking up at a wall we cannot climb. This crisis offers us the combination of danger and opportunity."
5. Pastor shared that there are six types of walls (see below). As a small group, discuss the impact of each that you see occurring or you are experiencing right now. Then take a moment to pray as a group for individuals **by name** in each category.
  - Burnout - overworking in your job or ministry
  - Spiritual Burnout - compassion fatigue
  - Blowout - moral failing
  - Personal Crisis - disease, family problem, grief
  - Faith Crisis - disbelief or cynicism
  - Dark night of the soul - ongoing spiritual dryness
6. Read 2 Corinthians 4: 7 – 10, 14. Discuss how these verses speak truth about your own personal or family life and how it offers hope in the face of "the walls" of life.
7. React to: "We must move from the Enemy's accusation, 'You are finished' to believing 'I am finished' to believing Jesus' words from the cross, 'It is finished! I took your sin. You don't have to regret the past. I died your death. You don't have to fear the future. I rose from the grave. Death is finished!'"

### With your kids...

With the children in your small group, commit to discussing each of the following 4 ideas about how to guide them through hard times (taken from kidsfaithkrate.com):

8. **Teach your children where suffering started.** Suffering started with sin. In the beginning, God created a good and perfect world. God set up his good authority, like a kind Father putting boundaries in place to protect his children. Men and

women sinned, and everything in creation became broken. Our hearts and desires became broken. Death and sickness became a reality. Sad and bad things are a part of our lives, and they are sometimes senseless and unfair. Our good God did not leave us broken but put in place a rescue plan to save us from the brokenness that came with sin. Our sin separates us from God and his love, but God's plan made a way to bring us back to him. When your children are suffering from the sin, the sad, and the bad in our world, they will want to know why. Christians know why because we know where things went wrong. By teaching your kids where it all started, we help them process senseless suffering and pain in the world, so they can hope in their Rescuer.

9. **Teach your kids when suffering will end.** It's helpful to know the why, and it's hopeful to know when suffering will end! We can have endurance and hope because we know the end of the story. The good news is that Jesus has defeated the sin, the sad, and the bad on the cross. And through his resurrection, all that he accomplished is effective for us. We currently live in the "already but not yet." Jesus made a way for us to no longer be separated by our sin from his loving arms. We can experience that love and hope now. The day is coming when he will make all things new. The story isn't over until Jesus comes back, and when he comes, the Bible says death will be no more. Neither will there be sadness or suffering or tears. For those who have faith in Jesus, he will make our bodies, our hearts, and our world new again. We have hope because we know how the story ends. (Revelation 21:4-5)
10. **Teach your kids why Jesus suffered.** Jesus came to our harsh and dark world to be our Rescuer and Redeemer. We were all on a path to the grave. We have all failed to live perfectly. But God sent his Son into the world not to punish us, but to take our punishment (John 3:16-17). He died in our place and for our sins. He suffered in all the ways a person could suffer, and he did it because he loves us. Those who humble themselves and call on his name, have peace with God again and experience the love and hope that comes from God alone. Jesus had the very worst done to him, so we do not have to experience a horrible ending. He rescues us from our sin, and he is our help and hope when we face hard things. We can call out to Jesus for help when we walk through hard things, and he is a very present help in time of need. (Psalm 46:1) Jesus is not a distant, unempathetic God, he understands our suffering because he walked this earth and suffered too. God hears your prayers, he responds, and he understands (Romans 5:1-5).

**11. Teach your kids how to have eternal hope.** There is great hope that while we walk through hard things, God is changing our hearts. Suffering has the ability to change us from hoping in things that do not last, to putting our hope in things that are eternal. It forces us to ask ourselves if there is something more than just the present. It is easy to find hope in things that don't last forever (i.e. toys, vacation, health, money, etc.). These things can give us a false hope because they feel good and are tangible. Even people, if made your ultimate hope, will let you down because they are imperfect. In moments of hardship, it is important to refocus your hope towards the God who is eternal. We must model and teach our children to find hope in the God who loves them endlessly and to invest in those things we take to Heaven with us (love for God and love for our neighbors). Do you practice finding hope in God? Is your hope in the next video game or next soccer game? Or is your hope in knowing Jesus and enjoying a relationship with him (1 Peter 4:12-19)? Putting your hope and happiness in God and investing in eternal things can give your family vision and focus during every season of life.

**Diving Deeper...**

For a deeper dive this week, refer to the "With Your Kids" section and discuss each point together.

**On your own...**

For your individual study this week, reflect, meditate, and pray over each of the 4 points shared in the "With Your Kids" section.