

## 5 Things God Uses To Grow Your Faith

“Pivotal Circumstances”

### Introduction

Pivotal Circumstances, both good and bad change the direction of our life. When things in our life change for the worse our tendency can be to pivot away from our heavenly Father. But when we chose to view those events through a different lens we begin to see that God will use those circumstances, even the difficult ones, to grow our faith.

### Discussion Questions:

Share something from your life that you would say was a pivotal circumstance. In that moment what were you feeling? Did you get angry, scared, did you pray to God to help you? How did you get through it?

Would you say that your faith grew as a result of that circumstance?

In John 11:1-45 we find the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead.

1. Read John 11:1-6

Jesus loved Lazarus deeply. How do you think it made Mary and Martha feel when Jesus didn't come heal their brother?

Share a time when you felt like God was silent or didn't show up when you needed him to?

2. Read John 11:8-14

Jesus told his 12 disciples “Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I'm glad I was not there, so that you may believe.

Knowing that Jesus loved his friend, how does it make you feel when you hear Jesus say “I'm glad I was not there”?

The disciples end up going with Jesus to eventually witness the miracle of Lazarus being raised from the dead. Why was this so significant for the disciples to experience?

3. Read John 11:20-26

Martha had an expectation of what Jesus should have done but she acknowledged that God had the power to give him whatever he asked.

In your pivotal moments is it hard for you to acknowledge that God has a plan and purpose for you?

What is your reaction to this quote by Phillip Yancy? “There is one thing worse than disappointment with God and that is disappointment without God”.

4. Read John 11:32-36

In vs 36 we see that Jesus grieved the loss of Lazarus. He knew the miracle was coming and yet he felt the heartbreak that Mary and Martha was feeling.

What is your response to this moment?

Think about your pivotal circumstance that you've experienced, How do you feel about the thought that in your pain and suffering God's heart breaks too?

5. Read John 11:38-45

Why do you think this moment so significant?

In the message Powell encouraged us in times when we can't see the light at the end of the tunnel to simply say to God, I need to see you in this circumstance.

Have you ever prayed a prayer like this?

Thinking about your experiences share a time when God revealed himself to you.

### **Conclusion**

When I can see God, I can have hope. I can have decreased anxiety and increased peace. God will use our experiences to grow our faith but our responsibility is to let him.