

When Your Life Isn't Turning Out The Way, You Hoped...

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.

Big Idea: “Let God Have CONTROL of Your Life.”

When God is in control...

✓ You'll get a new **STRENGTH**.

— Genesis 32:24-25 NLT

— Matthew 11:28-29

✓ You'll get a new **IDENTITY**.

— Genesis 32:27-28 NLT

— John 1:42

✓ You'll get a new **JOY**.

— Genesis 32:29 NLT

— Matthew 5:6

Jacob's Words of Encouragement

1. **BROKENESS** precedes breakthrough.”

— Psalm 51:17

— 1 Peter 5:5-6

2. “You must **LOSE** yourself to **FIND** yourself.”

— Mark 8:34 MSG

— Mark 8:35 NLT

3. “When you find yourself on God's **TERMS**, you find **FULFILLMENT**.”

— Romans 12:1-2 MSG

Jacob:

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Discuss and Apply

Use the following questions to help you formulate age-appropriate questions to stimulate meaningful conversations. Please share your ideas and experiences with us at connect@manna.church.

1. Talk about a time when you were attempting to control your own life. What difficulties did you encounter as you fought for control? Share what ultimately inspired you to hand over the reins to God.
 2. Discuss the fact that God's view of you is different from your view of yourself. While you see your limitations, God sees your potential. How does this make you feel? Thinking about your past or self-perception, share what you need to release to receive the new identity God has for you.
 3. Talk about where you currently are on a scale of 1 (white-knuckled control) to 10 (total surrender). What practical steps can you take this week to increase the scale and release more of your life to God?
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Prayer

Heavenly Father, Thank God for giving me new strength, identity, and joy. Lord, help me to discern the areas of my life I need to release to You, and I ask for your help in surrendering control.

Father, I recognize and agree that your plans for my life are greater than my own. Therefore, I submit to your wisdom and leadership, trusting that you will take care of my family and me.

In Jesus' name, Amen

At Manna, We Believe

Upon trusting Jesus as God and Savior, a person's life begins to change as God works in him and as he continues to submit to Him. The Christian life is marked by obedience to the Lord and the Bible. Believers should increasingly bear the fruit of the Spirit as listed in *Galatians* 5:22-23 and demonstrate faith through good works according to the gifts, talents, and abilities the Lord has provided.