



# TURNING POINTS

WHEN LIFE OFFERS BAD

## When Life Goes Bad, Go to the Good of God

Week of October 2, 2016

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

### Message Recap:

Read Matthew 14:1-3, 23

When life goes bad, we each get to choose how we are going to manage the turning point decisions in our lives. We can go to the good offered by God or the so called good offered by the world. Soaking in the presence of God is the example set by Jesus. We see again and again Jesus spending alone time in prayer when he was managing the turning point events in his life. When we follow Jesus's example and soak in God's presence, everything changes for us and for those around us. The problem is distance. Distance from God during the good and bad times of our lives. We get to choose daily. We can choose the world or we can choose to defeat the distance going to the good each day offered by God.

### Pray

God, I want to be close to you. I want to soak in your presence and choose the goodness you offer in all the big and small turning points of my life. Close the distance God, keeping me close to you as I each day I choose the good you offer to me through the grace of your son Jesus Christ.

### Getting Started

- Think of a time when you had to choose between a well worn path or a road less traveled. Which one did you choose and why?
- When you have been faced with a difficult turning point, what comfort have you turned to that was offered by the world (TV, shopping, gambling, alcohol, etc)? How well did that work out for you and those around you?

### Listening Deeply

1. When making a turning point decision, what are the key components to that process?
2. What are some turning points you have faced or are facing right now?
3. Matthew 14:23 tells us how Jesus managed the turning point in his life of John the Baptist's death. What was his response and why?
4. Read Mark 1:35. Why do you think Mark decided to include this verse when writing about Jesus?
5. If distance from God is our problem, what steps can we take to get closer to the one source of goodness?
6. In considering the steps discussed to draw us closer to God, what keeps us from taking those steps?
7. What can we do each day to insure we are continually working to shorten the distance between us and God?

### Living Wide in Jesus

When you stay close to God, everything changes! You are no longer defeated in distance. Through the grace of Jesus you can draw near to God. You can then manage your life turning points through God's goodness. You can change your life and the life of those around you. To defeat the distance between you and God, each day read God's word and spend time in prayer sharing your experience with others. It's your choice. You get to decide. What distance you will maintain? You are invited to draw close to God. Accept the invitation!