

Curveball

Curveball—Week Three: Change

Connect: Share about the most famous person you've met. Was it a local or global celebrity? An author? An athlete? Or maybe it was someone well-known in the community, your workplace—or even someone who was famous only to you or your family. Tell your group about what it was like to meet or know them.

Grow

1. Jon shared that King Saul rose to prominence then toppled into irrelevance. What is it about *change* that can lead us to fall off that cliff?
2. **Read 1 Samuel 18:7 and 31:4-6.** How did pride and jealousy lead King Saul to his demise? What stages led him to his downfall? Which do we see happen in people's lives around us—or in our own life?
3. Carey Nieuwhof makes this great observation about change: ***“Unchecked, most of us live in the decade where a lot of our tastes, knowledge, and experiences were shaped. We pick an era we love and, for the most part, stay frozen there. The past has a nostalgia that the future never does. We're more comfortable living with what we know and like than living in what we don't know.”***
 - a. What decade have you most enjoyed in your life? Why did you like it so much?
 - b. Are you stuck in a decade at all? What is the clearest evidence of this being true or untrue for you? Is it your clothes, musical taste, hairstyle... or “other”? Share with your group.
4. Name something from “yesteryear” that causes you to chuckle now as you think about it?
5. Jon shared three filters for us to use every day: ***I can***, ***We can***, and ***God can***. Have a conversation about these three phrases.
 - a. I can: What can you directly affect in your life as it relates to *change*? Talk about your choices and your contribution.
 - b. We can: How are we stronger when we're “in it together” as we consider *change*?
 - c. God can: What are some things that only God can do to bring about *change*?
6. Jon shared a really important adage when he said, ***Our mission never changes, but our methods always change.*** Talk about what exactly this means. How does it relate to our everyday life as we grow closer to marking the passing of another decade?
7. 7,500 churches will close their doors in the United States in 2019. If people aren't coming to church how can we take the church to them in ways we haven't tried before? What has to change to do this?

Pray: ***If you're not dead, God's not done.*** Pray and express to God your desire for the next season of your life. While you're at it, ask Him to clarify His desires for the same season. Ask the Lord to be moving in your pathway to help you align with what He's up to, helping you with the desire and the strength to join Him where He's working ahead of you, especially where it means change is coming into your life.

Next: Fill in the blanks: ***I can*** _____. ***We can*** _____. ***God can*** _____. What are some active steps you can take in each of these areas? Make a list. Where will you focus in the coming season?