

Embracing Limitation

Goal

To understand that limitations need to be both embraced and challenged to experience God's blessing.

Conversation Starters

- What was your expectation of how your first day at your job would be? How was it similar/different than what you expected?
- What's something you always wanted to be good at that you either aren't very good at or it involved a skill you never developed?
- What's a limitation that you hated when you were younger, but now you're glad it was there? Why? (e.g., curfew, free time, who you were allowed to date/hang out with, rules, etc.)

Review

Last week:

Start by checking on how group members did last week with "being the gate." What are some everyday acts of worship they practiced? How did they become a gate for themselves or for someone else?

This week:

Ask eGroup members to share their favorite points from the sermon, what spoke to them, a phrase or moment from the sermon they related to the most, or questions they have. If members have a hard time recalling the sermon, talk through your notes and share your favorite points.

Start with Scripture

Read 2 Kings 7:1-10.

Encourage your eGroup to open their Bibles to 2 Kings 7. Ask someone in your eGroup to read this passage.

- Look at verse 2. Why do you think God chose to keep His provision from the officer? *(The officer showed doubt and disrespect toward Elisha and God. His limitation kept him from God's blessing.)*
- Look at verses 3-10. Do you think the lepers embraced their limitation, or challenged it? Or both? *(The lepers were outside the city because of their disease, but then they decided to go to the enemy camp to see if they might help them. When they challenged it and went to the camp, God drove the enemy off, and the lepers found food and treasure.)*

- **Take It Further:** now look at Mark 9:17-27. The man whose son was possessed had a limitation — his faith wasn't very strong. How could that limitation have kept him from a blessing? How did the man embrace and challenge his limitation? *(The man could have accepted that his belief wasn't very strong and just quit trying, but he instead told Jesus, "Help my unbelief!" He embraced his limitation, and asked Jesus for help in challenging it, and received a blessing.)*

Make It Personal

- What do you think is the difference between embracing a limitation and challenging a limitation? *(Embracing a limitation can mean accepting it and allowing God to work through it — or if it's a bad limitation, like doubt, embracing it can cut us off from God's blessings. We challenge limitations when we believe God can overcome them, and when we refuse to let them keep us from doing something.)*
- Are you better at embracing limitation or challenging it?
 - How is that an advantage? How is it a disadvantage?
- What are some limitations you deal with often? Are they easy or difficult for you to challenge/embrace? *(This could include many things: finances, health, patience, wisdom, faith, happiness, relationships, etc.)*
- How do those limitations impact your faith?
- Why do you think God wants us to experience limitations?
- Talk about a time when a limitation positioned you to receive something from God.
 - The enemy wants us to see limitation as a wall keeping us from God's blessings. What are some ways you can embrace current limitations and see them as God positioning you?

Act On It

- This week, **limitation** is your gate — the gate that will determine how you experience God's blessings. Tell the group one limitation that you need to embrace, and one limitation that you need to challenge. Give some examples of how you can do that this week. Let the group give you ideas and feedback, and keep in touch throughout the week to let each other know how you're doing embracing and challenging your limitations.

Praise Reports, Prayer Requests, and Prayer

Ask eGroup members to share any prayer requests they have. Record any notes or prayer requests to pray for members during the week.

Dear Lord, thank You for placing limitations in our lives so we can lean on and grow closer to You. Help us to see which limitations in our lives need to be embraced, and

which ones need to be challenged. Please give us the strength and grace to do both with You, and let our limitations be a gate for others to reach You. In Jesus' name, amen.