

# REFRAMED

SAME  
SITUATION.



GOD'S  
PERSPECTIVE.

***REFRAMING INTERRUPTIONS***



***DINNER TABLE DISCUSSIONS***

## FOR THE FACILITATOR

Welcome to **REFRAMED**, a journey of discovering God's perspective on our current challenges.

Encourage the group to take turns reading and answering questions.

You will be asked questions on the topic. The readings do not answer the questions but point you in the direction of the answers. After you have finished the readings on a particular question, open the floor for the group before going onto the next question.

Example:

Question 1

Readers

Discuss question

Question 2

## TOPIC: REFRAMING INTERRUPTIONS

*Sermon audio:* [outlookchurch.co.za/sermons/285](http://outlookchurch.co.za/sermons/285)

## READER 1

Nothing is better than when a plan run smoothly, however in the world we live in that is almost never the case. Every time we make a plan, things we didn't foresee come along and interrupt our plans. Now interruptions are often seen as negative things, yet Jesus was able to see them as opportunities and make them into something amazing. In fact a lot of our favorite Bible stories about Jesus came about because of an interruption. Whether it was no wine at a wedding or someone touching Jesus to be healed.

So how did Jesus take something negative and turn it into something positive? How can we learn to reframe interruptions to see them as opportunities?

## READER 2

**Question #1:** Why do you think we perceive interruptions in our lives as a negative thing?

When everything is going according to plan the last thing you want is something unexpected to happen. This can come in many forms, it may be some bad news from home, it may even be a person who has a different agenda from you, like your kids, and it gets harder to escape them after they've learned how to walk.

### READER 3

Let's see how Jesus was able to deal with interruptions. After Jesus had received news of John's death he wanted to be left alone, many of us have been in a place like that, and the last thing we would want is what happened next.

### **Matthew 13-14**

**13** As soon as Jesus heard the news, he left in a boat to a remote area to be alone. But the crowds heard where he was headed and

followed on foot from many towns. **14** Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

Jesus planned to be alone so He could mourn. However He was interrupted. He turned that interruption into an opportunity to meet people's needs and make a difference.

#### READER 4

**Question #2:** Jesus ministered mostly out of interruption. Why do you think this was easier for Him?

A lot of Jesus' ministry opportunities came from interruptions. The lame man who came through the roof, the accusations of the Pharisees, and the demon possessed man named Legion all these events happened through interruptions.

Jesus took them all and turned it into ministry opportunities. He did it so naturally you could say that He planned it.

## READER 5

**Question #3:** How can we differentiate between a Godly interruption and a demonic distraction?

The problem is trying to know who is the one sending the interruption to you, after all it seems that both God and the Devil use interruptions.

During quiet times it is not unusual to start being reminded of all the things that need to be done or you are interrupted by noisy distractions, or people who suddenly need your attention. In these cases rather see if you can tend to the problem later, but make sure you inquire of God for discernment if it needs to be attended to now.

## READER 6

Then you have other interruptions that brighten your day. It may be someone pointing out a rainbow or inviting you out for lunch on a day you are down. It may even be a small reminder to pray before you do the next thing.

So what's the difference? Who gets the glory?

## READER 7

**Question #3:** How can we better utilise interruptions to bring God glory?

We saw how Jesus often took a negative interruption and turned it into an opportunity. We face interruptions on a daily basis. Both positive and negative interruptions.

Jesus shows us that some of the greatest ministry opportunities come from interruptions.

**John 5:19-20a**

**19** So Jesus explained, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does. **20** For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he is doing.

Jesus was in tune with the Father. He knew where the interruption came from and He knew how to handle it. He handled it the way the Father wanted.

**SHARE YOUR HIGHLIGHT**

Take turns sharing what stood out to you the most from what we read. What stood out to you and why?



## ACTION STEP

What action step can you take to respond to God's Word?

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