

REFRAMED

SAME
SITUATION.



GOD'S
PERSPECTIVE.

***REFRAMING SEASONS
OF STRUGGLE***



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.

TOPIC: REFRAMING SEASONS OF STRUGGLE

Sermon audio: outlookchurch.co.za/sermons/282

Sometimes we need outside help to give us the right perspective and clarity. Like when you wear glasses. It's the same spiritually. We need God's help to see clearly.

We don't see others as they are, we see others as we are.

Question #1: How do you see people? Are you positive and see the best in them? Or negative and critical?

We need Jesus to touch our eyes to see the world from God's perspective. When we see as He sees we can respond effectively.

EXAMPLE: Elisha and his servant faced a mighty army that surrounded them.

2 Kings 6:15-18 (NIV)

¹⁵ When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked.

¹⁶ "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

¹⁸ As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, "Strike this army with

blindness.” So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked.

When the servant saw the army of heaven protecting them he instantly changed from fear to joy!

When we can't see what God is doing we will be fearful. When we see God's hand we overcome fear.

What we see changes the way we feel. It brings peace and victory.

We need God's help to reframe our perspective so that even if the situation doesn't change, our response does.

Question #2: How can you go about changing your perspective to that of Christ's?

EXAMPLE:

Acts 9:3-5 (NIV)

³ *As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.*

⁴ *He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"*

⁵ *"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.*

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied.

Saul/Paul was initially trying to destroy the church. Until one day he SEES the light. And is blinded. Then his eyes are opened. This was Saul's reframing moment. He thought he was persecuting the Christians but then he realized he was persecuting Jesus, the Messiah. From that moment on his life was never the same.

We need to ask God to help reframe our seasons of struggle. God may not change our circumstances but will change our perspective so that we can see God's hand at work.

Question #3: What struggle have you been facing lately? How have you viewed this struggle?

How do we go about reframing?

James 1:2-6 (NIV)

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶ But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

Our trials need to be converted into trails that we can finish and feel a sense of joy and accomplishment.

How do we do this?

1. REVELATION: Our God is always working. Faith is more valuable to God than our comfort and convenience. We will be rewarded in eternity for our faith. Hard times produce faith. A wrong response is rooted in a wrong perspective.

John 5:17 (NIV “In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.”

2. REPENTANCE:

Mark 4:38-40 (NIV)

³⁸ *Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion.*

*The disciples woke him and said to him,
“Teacher, don't you care if we drown?”*

³⁹ *He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.*

⁴⁰ *He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”*

If you keep giving in to fear and doubt then it's time to repent and choose to trust in Him.

3. RESPONSE: Ask for God's perspective. If anyone lacks wisdom, ask God for wisdom.

John 5:20 (NIV)

“For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.”

Question #4: Can you find God's hand in your season? Can you see how God could have been using the season for His glory?

Remember: Resources follow God's wisdom.

This week let's be proactive to try to see God's perspective and how He is involved in the struggles in our lives.

Ask God to reframe your situations and turn your trials into trails to be explored and conquered.

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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