



Designing Life: Ongoing Change | March 6, 2019

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Change is a constant. And the reality is, if we don't like it, that's too bad. It's happening to us anyway. If you want to see how change impacts our faith, read more below.

Key Verses

1 Peter 1:5-8 (NIV)

"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Discussion

In today's world, adapting to change is becoming increasingly more important, not only in life, but in business as well. Companies thrive when their employees expect change. Products evolve best if creators are aware of continual improvements and modifications. Companies like Uber and Netflix are prime examples of this, while companies like Blockbuster failed to adapt to their ever-evolving consumer and thus cease to exist. It's the companies who embrace change and aren't afraid of trying new things that ultimately succeed.

1. Do you have experience working for a company that either embraces change well or doesn't embrace it at all? Explain.
2. Why do you think companies and products that are open to change are more successful?

Whether we like it or not, change will always be part of our lives. It's constant. So how do we plan our lives and grow in our faith while also acknowledging that our goals are really moving targets? Instead of reaching a certain point and settling, maybe falling into a rut or even making mistakes, we should instead continually evaluate both our progress as well as where God wants to challenge and grow us in new ways. We need to avoid the belief that we've "arrived," and admit that even when we make progress in our faith, we'll always have opportunity to grow.

3. How do you feel personally about change? Do you embrace change? Do you fear it?
4. How has God used change in your life to grow or challenge you? Do you ever feel tempted to believe that you've "arrived?"

In 1 Peter 1:5-8, we read a long list of ways that all of us can continually be growing in our faith. No matter where we are in our journey, this message rings true for us all. On this side of heaven, we all have more to learn about goodness, self-control, perseverance, mutual affection and love. None of us will ever "arrive" while we are on Earth. God longs for us to learn more every day about how to embody these attributes well. The Bible says if we continue to grow in these ways, it keeps us from being ineffective and unproductive.

5. When you read the long list of ways we can continue to grow in our faith, what is one area that sticks out to you that God might be prompting you to embrace change in?
6. How might continual growth and change enable us to be more effective and productive in our faith?

What's Next?

If our goal in our faith is to grow closer to God, the good and bad news is that we can always grow closer to Him. No matter our progress. We can learn something, but there is always opportunity to learn more. Even if you're a Bible scholar. When we do that, it helps us engage with our ever-changing world, and with the people around us. It helps us invite new people in, and explain to them what God is all about as well.

This week, as you live out your faith, find a few simple ways to embrace change. Step out with courage and excitement into the places where you can grow. Share God with somebody new as you embrace our ever-evolving world.