



AGAINST THE ROPES: Not What I Imagined



BIG IDEA

You cannot control what happens to you, but only you can control how it affects you.



ICE BREAKER

When you were a child, what did you imagine you would be or do when you grew up? How does right now compare to what you imagined back then?



MAIN POINTS

- Life seldom works out like we thought it would
- Even those who walk with God face difficult trials
- How we respond to life's unexpected turns is our choice
- David chose in moments of difficulty to put his eyes on God and not on his circumstances.
- Three crucial choices we must make when life goes off the rails:
 - Will I still believe in God even when I don't understand?
 - Will I maintain hope regardless of my circumstances?
 - Will I trust God anyway, believing He is who He says He is?



DISCUSS

1. How have you typically responded when life hasn't gone according to plan?
2. In what ways can you relate to David's experience of betrayal and disappointment?
3. What stands out to you about how David responded when Absalom took his kingdom?
4. Read 2 Samuel 15:25-26. What does David's attitude in these verses reveal about his relationship with God?
5. Which of the three choices mentioned (believing, hoping, trusting) is most difficult for you when life gets hard? Why?
6. How has God used difficult circumstances in your past to shape you in positive ways?



NEXT STEP

What specific circumstance in your life right now requires you to either: 1) Believe 2) Hope or 3) Trust? What's a practical way you can practice that this week?



SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 15:25-26 Take the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the Lord's eyes, he will bring me back and let me see it and his dwelling place again. But if he says, 'I am not pleased with you,' then I am ready; let him do to me whatever seems good to him.'

Romans 8:24-25 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.



NEXT WEEK SNEAK PEAK

Join us next week and invite a friend as we continue the series called Against the Ropes!

Questions or Feedback? Email Groups@CentralAZ.com