

IN THE MEANTIME

PART 4

INTRODUCTION

What do you do when life hasn't gone in the direction you hoped or wanted it to go and there's nothing you can do to change your circumstances? What do you do when you're living in "the meantime"? If you've ever been in the meantime or if you're currently in the meantime, you can't help but conclude you'll never be happy again, nothing good can come from your circumstances, and there's no point in continuing. Can it really be true that God *will* make things right?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you tend to be patient or impatient? How does that tendency affect your relationships and the way you deal with your circumstances?
2. Why is it so tempting for people in the midst of difficult circumstances to compare their lives to others'? What are some of the downsides of making those comparisons?
3. Read John 9:1-3. Have you ever treated a person in your life like a problem to be solved? Explain.
4. Talk about a time when you've asked, "*Why is this happening to me?*" What did you do to manage the circumstances that caused you to ask that question? What was the result?
5. During the message, Andy Jones said, "*When you focus on what's wrong, you lose sight of what God makes right.*" Respond to that statement. Based on your own experiences, does it seem true? Why or why not?
6. As you consider your current circumstances, what is one thing you can do to begin to focus less on what went wrong and more on what God is making right? What can this group do to support you?

MOVING FORWARD

When you focus on what's wrong, you lose sight of what God makes right. There's something important you have to keep in mind: your idea of making something right may not be God's idea of making something right. When you realize and accept this truth, it changes *everything*.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him."

John 9:3