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# P A C K Y O U R B A G S

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## PART 4: PRAYING AHEAD

### INTRODUCTION

We're all headed somewhere. Arriving at our new destinations requires change. For most of us, change creates stress. Sometimes you know what's coming next—graduation, wedding, new baby, new job, retirement. But there's no correlation between knowing what's next and being prepared for what's next. So, how do you prepare for the next season when you can see what's coming?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how much stress do you usually experience during periods of change? How does your level of stress affect how you navigate change?
2. When have you learned from someone else's mistakes? What consequences did you avoid by learning from that other person's experience?
3. Talk about a time when you could see what was coming next, but still felt overwhelmed when it came. Could you have done anything differently to prepare for that season?
4. What decision—good or bad—have you made in the past that is affecting your present and will continue to affect your future?
5. Read Proverbs 27:12. How good are you at acknowledging danger that you desperately don't want to see? Do you think it's possible to develop the ability to “see danger and take refuge,” or do you think it's a gift some have and some don't? Explain.
6. Can you see change ahead? If so, what can you do this week to take refuge in God? How can this group support you?

### MOVING FORWARD

Look ahead and embrace what you see. Respond to it. It's the only way to avoid trouble. If you can see a new season ahead, now is the time to take refuge in your heavenly Father. Now is better than later. Now will make later better. Pray:

*Heavenly Father, help me see trouble coming long before it gets here. Then give me the wisdom to know what to do and the courage to do it.*

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

*The prudent see danger and take refuge,  
but the simple keep going and suffer for it.*

**Proverbs 27:12**