



# Extraordinary - Part 6

Winter/Spring Lifegroups | Week #9

## ICEBREAKER:

Since we are nearing the end of the season, share your top Lifegroup moments and topic from this session.

## OPEN IN PRAYER & PLAY VIDEO

## MESSAGE SUMMARY:

This week's message includes a heartfelt conclusion of the Series as well as a list of "Final Instructions" from Pastor Ron. This week, we learned that being Extraordinary is just as much a physical discipline as it is a spiritual discipline. In the story with the woman with the issue of blood (Luke 8), the woman did not simply pray for her healing, her faith was so strong that it caused her to actively **pursue it!** While her situation was out of her control, her response to her situation was within her control. She took responsibility for the part she could play in her healing, actively sought it out, and FOUND IT! Let's learn from this woman and learn how we can actively pursue healing despite life's pain.

## SCRIPTURES

Luke 8:40-56 | Heb. 4:15-16 | Matt. 11:28-29 | Isaiah 26:3 | Ps. 16:10-11

\*Read these during the discussion: James 1:2-4 | Rev. 12:10-11 | Is. 43:2 | Ps. 16:10-11

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- We have all encountered difficult situations where it takes all the energy we have, just to control our emotions. While these experiences may be out of our control, our response is ALWAYS something we can control. **Think about a time when you allowed a difficult situation to get the best of you. What did you do or say that you regret? What about a time when the opposite is true and you WERE ABLE to respond positively in spite of your situation. How did your response affect those around you?**
- According to the James, we are to "count it all joy" when we go through difficult times and challenges in life. But how do you "count it all joy" when it hurts? Counting it all joy does not negate the fact the pain is there, but it does give us hope that at the end of our pain, there is purpose. ("that you would be complete lacking nothing"). **Read James 1:2-4. What areas of your faith is your pain testing? In what situations are you currently being challenged to "count it all joy?" How does it encourage you to know that at the end of your pain, you will be complete, lacking nothing?**

- When experience loss, or run into difficult situations, it can be easy to “get stuck”. We experience loss, and it can be difficult to count it all joy when the pain is so present. Sometimes we get caught up in our situation and begin to isolate ourselves, convincing ourselves that “No one understands what I am going through” or “I’m all alone in this.” But that is not the case. The enemy knows that we CAN OVERCOME anything when we are connected to the body of Christ! Let’s take a moment to overcome by encouraging each other. **Read Rev. 12:10-11 & Isaiah 43:2. How do these scriptures encourage you despite your pain? Despite the pain, how can you see God at work in this situation?**
- No matter what pain we experience, we serve a God who knows what we are going through! In fact, He encourages us to boldly approach this throne in our time of need (Heb. 4:15-16). The women with the issue of blood did just that! Despite her pain, she took her pursuit of Christ seriously. She had so much faith that Jesus could heal her that she did WHATEVER NECESSARY to get to Him. She didn’t care what she looked like and didn’t care who saw. And in the end, her faith, not just his touch is what healed her! **Can the same be said of your faith? Has your pain intensified your pursuit of Christ or has the opposite occurred? What areas do you feel challenged to take your pursuit of Christ to the next level?**

### **CONCLUSION:**

If you are in the middle of a painful situation, take heart! We serve a God who is bigger than lack, want, need and even our pain. In fact, he encourages us to bring our pain to Him and promises to exchange it for His peace (Matt. 11:28-29 & Isaiah 26:3). While we may look to others for encouragement, our Heavenly Father is the only one who can take our pain and turn it into purpose! As you walk through your pain, it is important to look to HIM as your ultimate source, because in His presence is where true joy is found (Ps. 16:10-11).

**Challenge: Take your pain and turn it into purpose!** This week, identify the areas that are causing you pain. Perhaps it is a broken relationship, an unexpected loss, or even a life-change that you were not quite ready for. After you identify the pain, boldly approach God’s throne to receive what you need. Remember, Jesus identifies with your pain and wants to hear how you feel. Give your pain to him and let Him help you find purpose in it! **See this week’s Personal Study provided by Living Waters Ministry for help with grieving losses!**

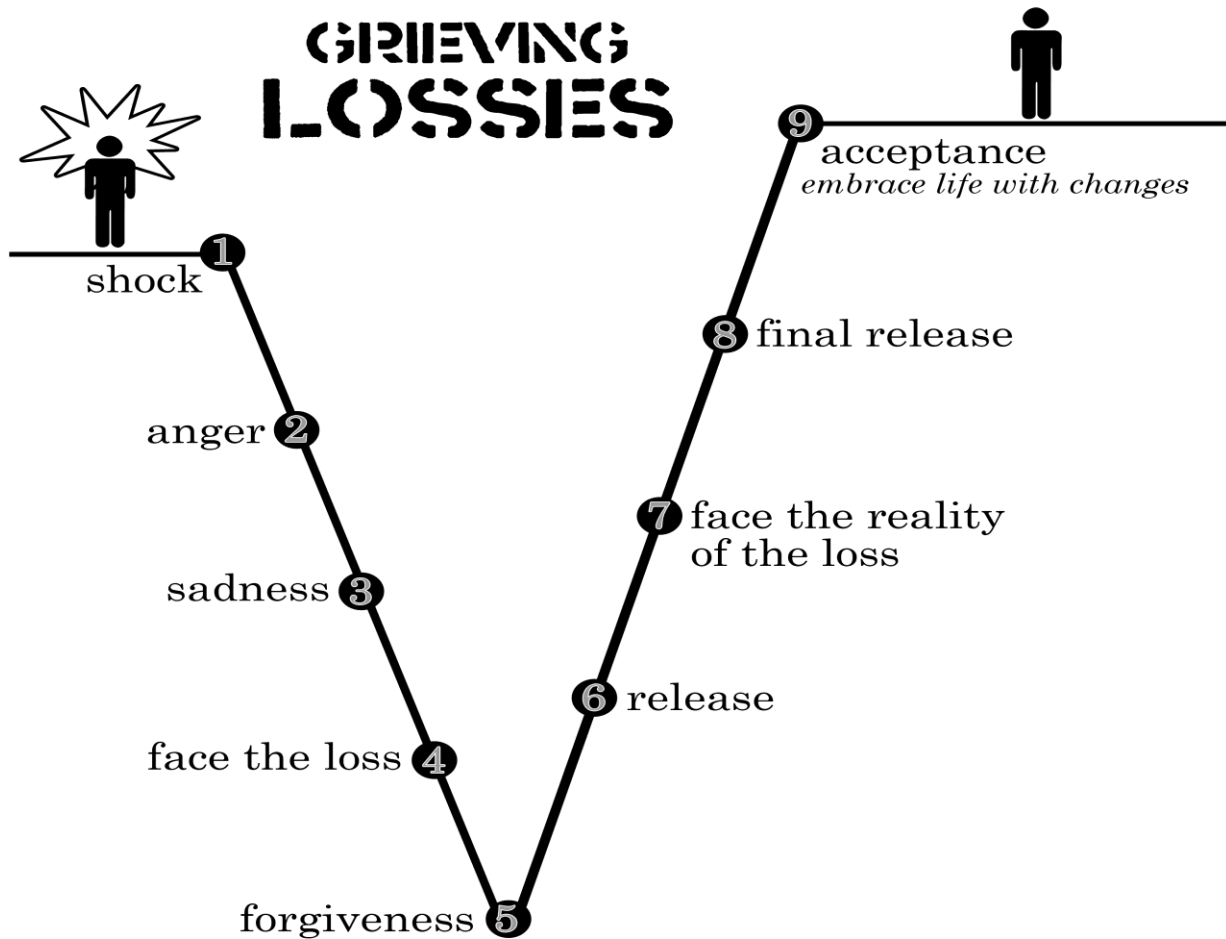
#### **Reminders:**

- **No Summer Lifegroups:** This season of Lifegroups is ending next week and we are off for the Summer.
- **Call for New Leaders:** When we create healthy community & share our experiences with others, the Kingdom expands! Prayerfully consider whether you feel called to lead your own group for the Fall Season. Leader signups will start soon, so be sure to ask your leader what’s involved!
- **Surveys:** End of Season Surveys will be sent out THIS WEEK! – We want your feedback so that we can keep making Lifegroups great. Thanks in advance for your feedback!



## Personal Exercise: "Grieving Losses"

We would like to thank Living Waters Ministry for providing this exercise. For more information on this ministry, visit their website and see contact info below.



Psalm 23:4 (NKJV)

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

Ecclesiastes 7:2-4 (NKJV)

Better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for that is the end of all men; and the living will take it to heart. Sorrow is better than laughter, for by a sad countenance the heart is made better. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

### **For More Information Contact:**

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