

1 WHY WE STALL SPIRITUALLY

Start the Conversation

Read This Story, and Then Join in With Your Own ...

“It seems like God is nudging me into something new,” she said.

I pushed the salad greens around in my bowl, looking for a piece of chicken, and then looked up. “So how do you feel about that?”

“Mmmm,” she said, “good question.” She put down her fork, wiped her mouth on her napkin, and leaned back in her seat. “To be honest—I really like where I am. I’m comfortable. I don’t know if I want something new. Why can’t things stay the same?”

“Yeah,” I said. “That’s the thing about God. He’s always nudging us along, isn’t He? Always encouraging us to try something new.”

“So true,” she said. “And we have to accept what we may not like: He knows best.”

Talk It Out

Don’t Hide What’s Inside—Open Up!

- Are you feeling comfortable with your life? What if God decided to change things up a bit?
- When was the last time you felt stuck, or spiritually burned out?
- What keeps us from being honest with others when we are feeling stuck?

Engage God’s Word

Read John 21:1-17

- Why did the disciples go fishing?
- What were Jesus’ instructions?
- What happened after the disciples followed Jesus’ advice?
- What if they hadn’t done what He said?

Discover Real Change

Consider How You Can Apply God's Word

When life gets stressful or unpredictable, it's easy to slip back into old, familiar patterns. It may feel as if we are so far from where we need to be, or from where we think God wants us. Sometimes it just seems easier to do things the way we've always done them—to go fishing, and to do it from the same side of the boat where we feel comfortable and in the same way that we've always done it.

But, when our faith stalls, we are often just one step away from where God wants us to be. Jesus told the disciples to throw out their nets on the other side of the boat. It was just one, simple change, but it had a lasting impact.

- What are the familiar patterns you slip into during stressful times?
- List everything that happened when the disciples took Jesus up on his suggestion to try the other side of the boat.
- If you're feeling stuck, what one thing might Jesus be asking of you?

Go Deeper

Read These Passages on Your Own

- Genesis 12:1-4
- Isaiah 43:18-19
- I Kings 17:7-16