

JUMP START



Lesson 2: Circumstances

God uses circumstances to strengthen our relationship with Him.

God comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. — 2 Corinthians 1:4



REARVIEW MIRROR

Think about the last lesson. What was one thing that really spoke to you? Was there something that you changed, did differently or added into your life as a result?



EYES ON THE ROAD: Watch the video.

START YOUR ENGINE

Describe something in your home that stirs up a memory from a past event like a souvenir or trinket.



CHARGE YOUR BATTERY

Scripture references may be found at the end of each lesson.

1. Name a time when a circumstance was out of your control and someone else held the results in their hands.
2. Think of a time when something happened and, as a result, it was a turning point in your life. Was it a simple moment or a major life event that occurred?

Did this moment or event drive you closer to God, make you indifferent to God, or drive you further away from God? Explain.

3. Are you currently living in a circumstance that you cannot change but wish you could? Describe it.

Admitting that this circumstance could continue indefinitely, how will you seek God for patience, wisdom, peace and comfort? Use the verses below to list God's expectations and promises for you in your circumstance.

Isaiah 26:3

Romans 5:3-5

Philippians 4:6-7

James 1:5-6

God's expectations of you

God's promises for you

4. Realizing that every circumstance has the potential to make you bitter or better, what things are you going to do intentionally to prepare yourself for the next circumstance?

5. Sometimes life is hard. We might feel that God is far away, doesn't seem to care, or doesn't even know our struggles. Let's take a look at Hagar in the book of Genesis to see what she did in her difficult circumstances. More importantly, notice what God says and does in these verses. Read Genesis 16:1-13.

Describe Hagar's circumstances:

In verse 7, who found Hagar in distress?

What did God instruct Hagar to do in verse 9?

In verses 9 & 10, we learn that God does not always remove the hard circumstances from our lives. Sometimes He asks us to remain in them. But in the midst of them, a blessing can be found. Sometimes we must look for them. Can you identify a blessing that has happened as a result of your circumstance?

What did God promise Hagar in verse 10?

What was the new name Hagar gave God in verse 13?

What difference would it make in your current circumstances if you claimed Hagar's name for God, "You are the God who sees me"?

What might "the God who sees you" say to you in your present circumstances?

How did Hagar come to know God more fully as a result of her circumstances?

In this lesson, you have been faithful to learn God's Word. Now, it's time to *Hit the Road*. By doing the *Hit the Road* portion of *Jumpstart*, you will take what you have learned and put it into action. Don't miss the most exciting part of the ride.



HIT THE ROAD

1. Use the **A-L-L** method you learned in Lesson 1. It will help you hear God speak to you personally.

A=About (What's the passage or verse about? Facts: Who, What, When, Where, How and Why. It may not answer all these questions.)

L=Lessons learned (Truths from the passage)

L=Live (Application—how am I going to live as a result of reading and studying the word?)

EXAMPLE: Psalm 119:165

Those who love your law have great peace and do not stumble.

About:

Who? people who love the law.

What? peace,

When? now, today.

Where? doesn't identify where.

How? love the law.

Why? so you won't stumble.

Read Lamentations 3:22-25.

The unfailing love of the Lord never ends! By His mercies we have been kept from complete destruction. 23 Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each day. 24 I say to myself, "The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in Him!" 25 The Lord is wonderfully good to those who wait for Him and seek Him.

A = About:

Who?

What?

When?

Where?

Why?

L=Lessons Learned:

L=Live:

2. Here are some ideas that will prepare you for life's circumstances:

Memorize the hymn *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*.

Write down and memorize Isaiah 26:4.

Recall, then write down God's past faithfulness.

3. Do you know someone who is living in difficult circumstances right now?

2 Corinthians 1:4 says, *God comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.*

Find a way that you can reach out and comfort someone who needs to know that "God sees them".

"If you want to forget all your other troubles, wear too tight shoes."

—Anonymous

SCRIPTURES (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)



CHARGE YOUR BATTERY

Isaiah 26:3 —

You will keep in perfect peace, all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!

Romans 5:3-5 —

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. 4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. 5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love.

Philippians 4:6-7 —

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. 7 Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

James 1:5-6 —

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. 6 But when you ask Him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind.

Genesis 16:1-13 —

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had not been able to bear children for him. But she had an Egyptian servant named Hagar. 2 So Sarai said to Abram, "The Lord has prevented me from having children. Go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have children through her." And Abram agreed with Sarai's proposal. 3 So Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian servant and gave her to Abram as a wife. (This happened ten years after Abram had settled in the land of Canaan.)

4 So Abram had sexual relations with Hagar, and she became pregnant. But when Hagar knew she was pregnant, she began to treat her mistress, Sarai, with contempt. 5 Then Sarai said to Abram, "This is all your fault! I put my servant into your arms, but now that she's pregnant she treats me with contempt. The Lord will show who's wrong—you or me!"

6 Abram replied, "Look, she is your servant, so deal with her as you see fit." Then Sarai treated Hagar so harshly that she finally ran away.

7 The angel of the Lord found Hagar beside a spring of water in the wilderness, along the road to Shur. 8 The angel said to her, "Hagar, Sarai's servant, where have you come from, and where are you going?"

"I'm running away from my mistress, Sarai," she replied.

9 The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit to her authority." 10 Then he added, "I will give you more descendants than you can count."

11 And the angel also said, "You are now pregnant and will give birth to a son. You are to name him Ishmael (which means 'God hears'), for the Lord has heard your cry of distress. 12 This son of yours will be a wild man, as untamed as a wild donkey! He will raise his fist against everyone, and everyone will be against him. Yes, he will live in open hostility against all his relatives."

13 Thereafter, Hagar used another name to refer to the Lord, who had spoken to her. She said, "You are the God who sees me." She also said, "Have I truly seen the One who sees me?"



HIT THE ROAD

Isaiah 26:4 —

Trust in the Lord always, for the Lord God is the eternal Rock.

I Have Decided To Follow Jesus —

1. I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
No turning back, no turning back.
2. Though I may wonder, I still will follow;
Though I may wonder, I still will follow;
Though I may wonder, I still will follow;
No turning back, no turning back.
3. The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me;
No turning back, no turning back.
4. Though none go with me, still I will follow;
Though none go with me, still I will follow;
Though none go with me, still I will follow;
No turning back, no turning back.
5. Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
No turning back, no turning back.