

# EXPERIENCES

Experiences refer to life-shaping, character-building, and faith-testing experiences God uses to grow and develop us for current and future roles.

## **God molds us through our experiences.**

*Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. Romans 5:3-5*

God is powerful enough and wise enough to use all of our experiences (good or bad) to transform us. There are some lessons we could never learn from a book or in a classroom but need to experience in order to be transformed by them.

## **God can redeem our experiences.**

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28*

God doesn't call every experience good. Sin and darkness are never His will and are never called good. Yet, in His infinite love, wisdom, and power, He can even take things we could never imagine could be used for good and do just that. That means that God can even take the hurts in our lives and use them for His glory and ultimately as a blessing to others.

## **God is in control and has a plan.**

*You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. Genesis 50:20*

God has a much larger perspective than we do. We find ourselves in circumstances we would never choose. Many of our experiences seem like random events to us. However, with some distance, we may realize those past experiences were just what we needed to prepare us for the present circumstances.

## **Our response to our experiences is key in how they shape us.**

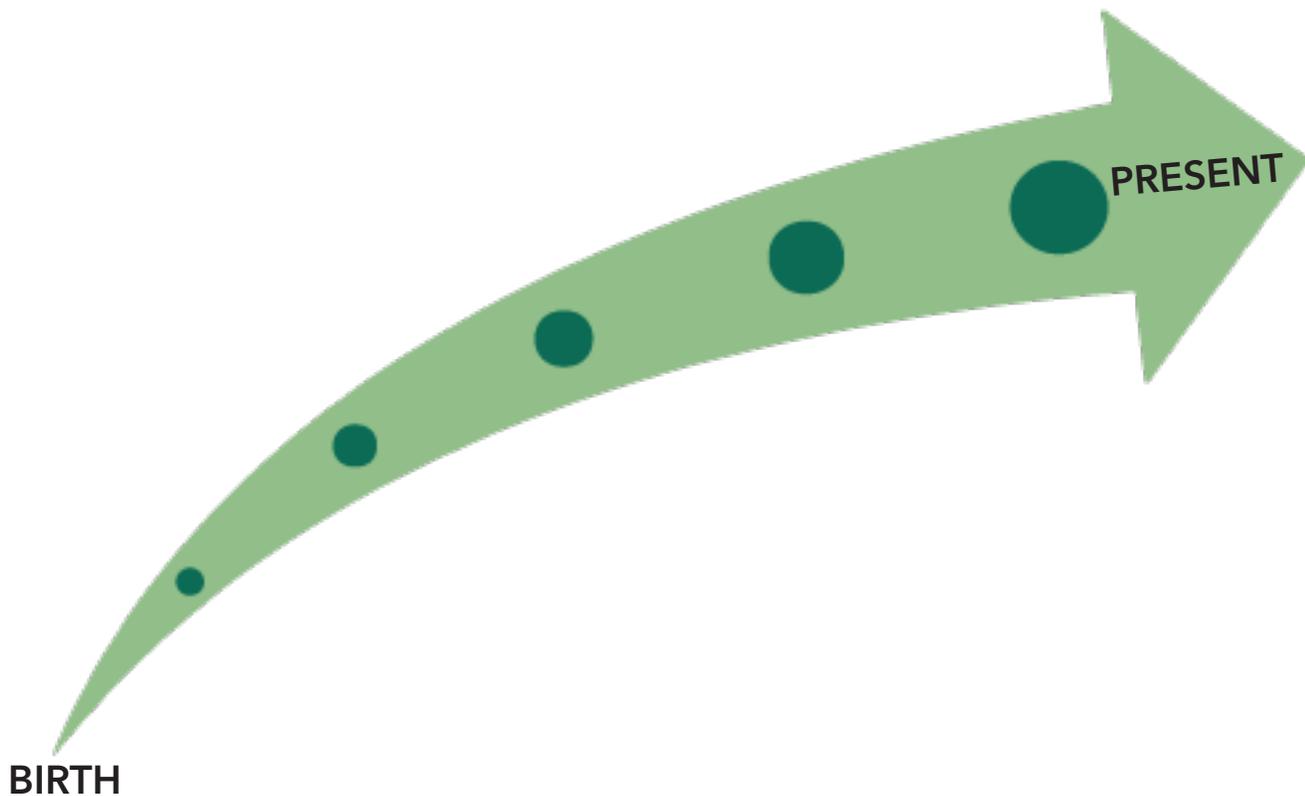
While we don't always get to choose our experiences, we always have a choice in how we respond to them. In both pleasure and pain, there are responses that can glorify God and draw us closer to Him and others that break His heart and create distance between us.

**AFTER REFLECTING ON YOUR KEY EVENTS, HOW DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL ABOUT HOW GOD HAS BEEN SHAPING YOU THROUGHOUT YOUR LIFE?**

# KEY EVENTS THAT HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY SHAPED MY LIFE AND MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD:

## EXPERIENCES:

List key events that have shaped your life and relationship with God.



HOW MIGHT GOD USE THESE EXPERIENCES TO SERVE HIM AND OTHER PEOPLE?