



Connect Group Discussion Guide

The idea of this series, "Junk in the Trunk", is about finding freedom from the things that weigh us down.

1. Read Ex. 34:1-4. Moses was up on Mount Sinai receiving instruction from the Lord, and he was gone for 40 days – what the Israelites perceived as a long while - and they took matters into their own hands and built a replacement god because of their impatience. What are something things that can make people impatient?
2. When we get impatient, we can lose our objectivity and act out in our frustration with the waiting, or the weariness in the length of time of the waiting period, or the stories we begin to tell ourselves as we wait. What have you seen happen when people acted out of impatience? Has it been good for them or not?
3. In these verses, the Israelites built a golden calf to replace divine leadership and oversight of their lives. They needed something to fill the void. What are some ways we attempt to fill in the void we may experience when we don't think the Lord is with us?
4. When we get impatient, we can get distracted by things like:
 - Convenient Memories: where we make past challenges seem better than they were or we forget what God had done for us in the past. Have you seen this happen with people?
 - Busyness and the need to perform: We start doing things in our impatience to fill in that gap, though what we are doing may not be good for us. Read: Ex. 32:8. What are some ways people "fill in the gaps" when it may seem like God is taking too long?
 - Lack of wise counsel: We may want to listen to people who echo and support our unwise decisions rather than listen to those whose wise words may challenge us. Read Ex. 32:5-6, 25.
5. We can overcome impatience and get free from distractions in a few ways:
 - Focus on change and growth: Know that God is leading you. Read John 10:27. What does this mean to you?
 - Establish a baseline (of relationship with God - reading Word, getting to know God's voice). How can a person begin this today?
 - Remember what God has done for you before. Share 4 blessings you have received from God.

Series: Junk in the Trunk

"The Replacements"

Week of July 18, 2021

Main Idea

***When we get impatient,
we can lose our objectivity,
and build replacements for
God in our lives. Today, we
can overcome impatience
and get free from
distractions.***

Key Scripture Reference(s)

Exodus 32:1-4

Exodus 32:8

Exodus 32:5-6, 25

John 10:27

Your Faith in Action

What steps will you take this week to **show** others what you believe (in words, and in deeds)?

Mon: _____

Tue: _____

Wed: _____

Thu: _____

Fri: _____

Sat: _____

Sun: _____

*This is a constant element, so you
can practically live out your faith everyday.*