

If I Knew Then

2024-11-18 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Malachi 3:10

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

God kept telling Israel to stack up stones after he moved, because people forget fast. Pastor Matt said looking back at a step of faith usually produces exactly one regret: not stepping sooner. Isaiah 48 describes peace like a river that was available the whole time, for people who did not listen. The pattern in Scripture is consistent: provision follows the step. It rarely arrives before it.

To get started

- What step did you take later than you should have, and what did waiting cost you?

Looking back at the message

This service opened with a couple's testimony about tithing when the money was not there. Their story is the argument.

- 1 The couple in the testimony video said that when they started tithing, the money genuinely was not there. It meant cutting into groceries. What does obedience look like when the math does not work?
- 2 Pastor Matt said the real miracle was less stress, not more money. Where have you seen that trade in any part of life?
- 3 Pastor Matt observed that stress never once earned him a dollar, but trusting God consistently removed the stress. What is stress currently doing for you? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Joshua 4:1-9, Malachi 3:10, and Isaiah 48:17-19. Three angles on the same idea.

- 4 Read Joshua 4:1-9. Why stones, and what were the stones supposed to make children ask?
- 5 Read Isaiah 48:17-19. What was available, and what got in the way?
- 6 Read Malachi 3:10. What does God invite, and what does he promise?
- 7 Read John 4:10. Jesus says: if you had asked, I would have given. What is the pattern there? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

The memory point applies well beyond money. Ask people to name an answered prayer they had forgotten.

- 8 What has God done for you that you have already half forgotten?
- 9 What would your version of a pile of stones be, something that forces you to remember?
- 10 What step of faith do you keep postponing to a better season?
- 11 What word are you asking God for as you head into the next year? OPTIONAL

The group together

The stones were built so children would ask. Testimony is the point of remembering.

- 12 The stones existed so children would ask what they meant. Who is watching how you trust God?
- 13 What story of God's faithfulness have you never told this group?
- 14 How could this group help each other remember what God has already done?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What step will you take now instead of later, and how will you mark it so you remember?

You might pray about

- For courage to take a step before the provision is visible
- For memory of what God has already done
- For those under financial pressure right now