



AT THE MOVIES

Groundhog Day

#NPMovies

Week 3
3 of 4
July 17, 2016

Bottom Line: Your past does not define you. You can get unstuck.

Icebreaker: What is one time in your past that you look back on and think: “I wish I had a do over”?

Key Verse: *Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.* Ecclesiastes 12:13

Groundhog Day is a movie about a man who is stuck. Phil is stuck living February 2 over and over again in a constant loop. While none of us have faced that situation, we have all been stuck at some point. Each of us knows what it’s like to find ourselves in that place where you just can’t seem to get out of it. We get stuck for a variety of reasons, but getting unstuck is often more simple than any of us really know – fear God and keep His commandments.

Solomon wrote that this is our “whole duty.” All that God expects from us is that we worship Him and keep His commandments. It seems too good to be true or too simple because it is not exciting. Obeying God in the daily, ordinary choices is something we may consider to be boring, but it is the simple, regular obedience to all that God has for us that makes all the difference.

Part of the reason we get stuck to begin with is that we do not always obey God’s commands or give Him the reverence that is rightly due His name. All of us, by choice and by nature, reject God and what He has said would be best for our lives. This is why we need Jesus. Through Jesus, we come face to face with the God of second chances.

Jesus helps us get unstuck by offering His perfect forgiveness for all of our mistakes. Christ alone made us right before God. Furthermore, Christ gives us His Spirit to press into and rely upon as we continue our journey through life trying to honor God. No longer are we stuck, but we are loved and rescued.

THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on John’s message, what stood out to you?

John said that pride, fear, misunderstanding, and follow-through are things that keep us stuck. He said the way to get unstuck is to surrender to God’s Son as my Savior, surrender to God’s plan as my strategy, and surrender to God’s strength as my strength.

Biblically speaking, why do we keep having the same problems over and over again? Where do we find this principle in Scripture? In the people of Israel?

What does it mean to you to know that we serve a God who loves to give second chances?

How does following the advice given in Ecclesiastes help us live unstuck? Why does it seem counterintuitive to us at times?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

Can you identify an area of your life where you are stuck either professionally, personally, or spiritually? What steps can you take to get unstuck this week?

How does the second chance that you have been given from God change the way you live? How has it impacted your relationships?

While God has made us unstuck in a permanent way through our faith in His Son, what are some common ways we get stuck after we first profess faith in Christ?

How did focusing on things that don’t matter keep Phil in *Groundhog Day* stuck? How does focusing on things that won’t last keep you from moving forward?

NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together, as a group:

1. Getting unstuck is something we are supposed to do, and we are meant to do it with the help of others. If you are trying to get unstuck, share with the group what is going on in your heart and life and work through these decisions together. Keep each other accountable for the steps and actions you choose to take, and look forward to change.
2. Praise God that He is a God of second chances and that being stuck is not forever. Ask for the help of the Holy Spirit to look at your life honestly and help you see areas where you can grow. Pray that the gospel would be what drives the change in your life. Pray that your choices would come from a genuine place of love for God.

EVALUATION/ACTION **Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ**

Bottom Line: Your past does not define you. You can get unstuck.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Day 1: Jeremiah 29:11-14

Day 2: Jonah 1:1-3

Day 3: Jonah 2:1-3

Day 4: Jonah 3:3-5

Day 5: Jonah 4:9-11

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)