“BOUNCE BACK”
SERIES

“NOT FINISHED”

WEEK 2

WORD

“6 So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while.
7 These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. “... So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.”

1 Peter 1:6–7

SPARKS

- What is something about your life today that is very different from what you imagined a few years ago?
- What is something you handle differently now because you have gained more experience?
- Has someone ever changed in a way that completely changed how you saw them?

God's work in our lives does not stop at one moment, one mistake, or one difficult season. There are still things He wants to do in us, teach us, and develop through us.
Peter's journey shows us this clearly. Jesus restored Peter, but He did not stop there. He continued to teach Peter what it meant to follow Him, challenged him to trust and surrender, and prepared him for the purpose ahead. Jesus also reminded Peter that He was working in the lives of others.
We may sometimes focus on where we are right now and become discouraged. But God sees the whole journey.

He is still working.

This message is not about tolerating sin or escaping the consequences and discipline that can come from our choices. Bouncing back does not mean returning to our old ways. It means getting back up and continuing in God's will.

We don't bounce back to go our own way. We bounce back to go God's way.

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1. JESUS IS NOT FINISHED WITH YOU YET.

John 21:15:17
'17 The ***third time*** *he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?"*
Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, 'Do you love me?" He said, ***"Lord, you know all things; you know that I l ove you."*** *Jesus said, 'Feed my sheep.'"*

Peter had denied Jesus three times, but Jesus did not leave him defined by his failure. Jesus met Peter, restored him, and entrusted him with responsibility. Peter's failure was real, but it was not the end of his story. Jesus still had a purpose for him.
When we accept Jesus' forgiveness, we don't have to remain stuck in shame or condemnation. We can get back up and step forward in the purpose He has for us.
If Jesus is not finished with you, what might He be asking you to get back up and do?

1

2. YOU ARE NOT FINISHED LEARNING AND MATURING YET.

John 21:18-19
'18 Very truly I tell you, ***when you were younger*** *you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but* ***when you are old you will stretch out your hands****, and* ***someone else*** *will dress you and lead you* ***where you do not want to go."***
19 Jesus said this to indicate ***the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God.*** *Then he said to him, 'Follow me!'"*

2

Peter was restored, but his journey was not finished. Jesus still had more to teach him about following, trusting, and surrendering to Him.
Spiritual maturity is a process. It means learning to trust Jesus, surrender to Him, and become more like Him. Even our seasons of testing can reveal what is genuine in our faith and show us where God is still developing us.
What might God still be teaching you about trusting and following Him?

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3. JESUS IS NOT FINISHED WITH THE WORK HE IS DOING IN OTHERS.

John 21:20-22
‘20 Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, ‘Lord, who is going to betray you?”) 21 When Peter saw him, he asked, ***“Lord, what about him?”***
22 Jesus answered, ***“If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.”‘***

3

After Jesus spoke to Peter about his own journey, Peter became concerned about John. Jesus redirected Peter's attention to his own responsibility: following Him.
It can be easy to compare our journey with someone else's or become discouraged by where they are. But Jesus is also working in the lives of others, even when we cannot see everything He is doing.
We don't have to give up on people. We can trust Jesus with their journey while continuing to follow Him faithfully.
How would our relationships change if we remembered that Jesus is still working in the people around us?

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LIVE IT!

- Receive Jesus' forgiveness and refuse to live under condemnation.
- Keep following Jesus, even when growth requires change or sacrifice.
- Be patient with people who are still growing and changing, and keep loving and encouraging them instead of giving up on them.

PRAYER

- Thank Jesus for restoring us and giving us another opportunity to walk in His purpose.
- Ask God for a teachable heart that is willing to surrender and be changed by Him.
- Thank God that His work in people does not stop where we think it should, and ask Him to show us how to love and encourage others while He continues His work in them.

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