

Wisdom for People in Transition

I. God will be with us wherever we go.

“Then the cherubim lifted their wings and rose into the air... and the glory of the God of Israel hovered above them. Then the glory of the Lord went up from the city and stopped above the mountain to the east. Afterward the Spirit of God carried me back again to Babylonia, to the people in exile there. And so ended the vision of my visit to Jerusalem. And I told the exiles everything the Lord had shown me.”

Ezekiel 11:22-25 (NLT)

“I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me.” Psalm 139:7-10 (NLT)

Life Application: “...work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare.” Jeremiah 29:7 (NLT)

II. Follow God’s plans for you boldly and courageously.

“Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do.” Joshua 1:6-7 (NLT)

“I look up to the mountains—does my help come from there? My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth! He will not let you stumble; the one who watches over you will not slumber. Indeed, he who watches over Israel never slumbers or sleeps. The Lord himself watches over you! The Lord stands beside you as your protective shade. The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon at night. The Lord keeps you from all harm and watches over your life. The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever.” Psalm 121:1-8 (NLT)

Life Application: We can post Scriptural reminders of God's presence and goodness in strategic places.

“I will bless the Lord who guides me; even at night my heart instructs me. I know the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.” Psalm 16:7-8 (NLT)

III. Treat others the way you want them to treat you.

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 7:12 (NIV)

Life Application: We can take the initiative.

“Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other... Always be eager to practice hospitality... Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep.” Romans 12:9-15 (NLT)

IV. Don’t forget the people who have helped you, and don’t forget the Lord.

“When you have eaten your fill, be sure to praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. But that is the time to be careful! Beware that in your plenty you do not forget the Lord your God and disobey his commands... never say to yourself, ‘I have achieved this wealth with my own strength and energy.’ Remember the Lord your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful...”

Deuteronomy 8:10-11,17-18 (NLT)

Life Application: We can let others know how grateful we are for them.

“Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.” Philippians 1:3-6 (NLT)

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Connect Group Questions

1. Describe a time in your life when you faced multiple transitions simultaneously (graduating and starting a new job in a new city). How did you deal with all of the change?
2. Read Psalm 139:7-10. How do these verses make you feel about facing new challenges?
3. Read Jeremiah 29:7. This verse was written to people whom God sent into exile because of their disobedience. They didn't want to be where they were. Yet God told them to pray for the welfare of the people in their new surroundings. Have you ever found yourself in a similar situation? If so, how did you pray?
4. Read Matthew 7:12. What's the difference between saying, "Don't do to others what you don't want them to do to you" and "Do to others what you would have them do to you"?
5. Read Psalm 121. How does this Psalm apply to us during a global pandemic? Share with your group any other Psalms that have encouraged you lately.
6. Read Deuteronomy 8:10-18. Why do you think Moses felt it necessary to remind God's people not to forget the Lord after they settled in the Promised Land?
7. Spend some time as a group praying:
 - for each other's needs
 - for a vaccine to stop the spread of COVID-19
 - for wisdom for our state and national leaders
 - for wisdom for our church leaders
 - for graduates, empty nesters, military personnel, first-time parents, and all other people who are in a season of transition

"I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears. Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces." Psalm 34:4-5 (NLT)