

VICTORY!

Victory regarding my PAST

The POSITION of my past

Romans 5:6, 8, 10; Eph. 2:13

Moved from DISTANT to NEAR

The PAIN of my past

Phil. 3:13

Sometimes our past is IRRECOVERABLE

The PENALTY of my past

Col. 2:13-15

My certificate of debt has been CANCELED

The POWER of my past

Ps. 103:12; Isa. 1:18, 43:18-19, 25

Letting go of UNFORGIVENESS or SELF-CONDEMNATION

NOTES:

Life Group Discussion Questions – April 13, 2025

Ephesians 2:13 *But now in Christ Jesus you who previously were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

DISCOVER

1. For those that are willing, have group members share some of the areas from their past that have burdened them over time. Identify some of the more common burdens.
2. We all have been influenced by various factors from our past. In what ways does our past direct our future? How might God want to use your history, as good or as bad as it may have been, to grow you in Him? In what ways do we miss or ignore what God is teaching us?
3. Explain how it is a good thing that areas of your past life are irrevocable; that is, that you cannot go back to make it right.
4. Many people say that the key to their victorious life began when they first “forgave themselves”? What are they implying? Is this a legitimate biblical pathway to overcoming? Explain.

EXPLORE

1. Make a list of the implications and ramifications of Christ’s resurrection.
2. How does Christ’s resurrection bring a personal reality of new life in new believers? How about for mature Christians as well? In what ways are you different today as a result of His resurrection? Specifically, in what way(s) have you been raised in Him?
3. Read Romans 11. Discuss why being grafted into the family of God must be the first step in order for us to have continuous victory in life.
4. Read Philippians 3:10-16. What is the “power of the resurrection” in v. 10? In vv. 12, 13, Paul talks about getting hold of “it.” What is he talking about? Why is it important to forget what is behind? In contrast, how could dwelling on the past hinder future service to God? Do these two ideas contradict each other? Explain.
5. Read Colossians 2:13-15. What “decrees against us” is Paul referring to? Why are they “hostile” to us? What debt did we owe to God prior to our salvation?
6. Read Psalm 103:12. Why is this truth particularly profound? What does this say about God’s forgiveness?
7. Read Galatians 2:20. Where is the freedom or victory if “we no longer live”, as Paul says?

EXPERIENCE

1. How would a person normally respond if someone else paid off a huge debt for him? What should you do for God since He paid this debt for you? What’s holding you back?
2. In what ways are you still denying your victory in Christ? How should God’s forgiveness transform our lives? Are there areas in your life that you are still holding onto that inhibits your relationship with God? Are others able to see the evidence of this in your relationship(s) with others? What will it take to gain complete and full victory over your past? Is this possible or have you given up hope? Explain.
3. Why do you think it is that most people don’t understand what Jesus has done for them individually? Now that you have identified the reason(s), what will you do about it?

PRAY

Dear Heavenly Father, at times my past wells-up and haunts me, hindering my growth in You. I realize when I do this, the abundant life You promise fades. Lord, my flesh is weak and I have no strength. But by Your strength I will gain complete victory. Help me, O God, to keep stepping aside in these moments until there is less and less of me and more and more of You. Amen.