

# DAY 1

## THE MESS-UP: SIN

### GETTING OFF TRACK

When a climber sets out to climb a mountain, he or she needs loads of supplies. Circle the supplies you may already have at home.

CELL PHONE  
CARABINERS  
(CLIPS FOR ROPES)  
CHEST AND WAIST  
HARNESS  
WATER  
FIRST-AID KIT

WATERPROOF COAT  
BACKPACK  
KNIFE  
CLIMBING HELMET  
ENERGY BARS  
CRAMPON

SUNBLOCK  
GLOVES  
HEADLAMPS  
ICE PICK  
SAFETY ROPE  
WEATHERPROOF  
PANTS



These are all important supplies. But even if you have everything you need to be safe on the mountain, none of these things will matter if you don't know where you're headed. You need a GPS or a map to stay on track. Even if you get lost, a map can help you go back and figure out where you went wrong.

It's the same with forgiveness. You need to figure out where you went wrong before you can ask for forgiveness. You need to know what path to take to get right with God or to repair a broken friendship. Take it from King David. God will show you the way forward.

## SEARCH ME!

King David was very honest about his sins when writing the Psalms. He understood that if he didn't pinpoint where the trouble started, he wouldn't be able to get right with God. He said it this way:

**"Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!  
And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way  
everlasting!" Psalm 139:23-24 (ESV)**

In other words, King David asked God to help him figure out where he had messed up.

When we talk about mess-ups, we're getting into confusing and dangerous territory. You can't fix a mess-up by just telling the other person, "It didn't do much harm" or "Get over it." Mess-ups are a big deal. They can destroy lives. God can help you see where you may have gotten off the path or messed up big time. But God goes even further. He comes to where we are, and He rescues us.

## THE RESCUER

In 2002, the famous mountain climber, Dave Hahn, attempted to rescue a climber who had been seriously injured by a falling boulder. To make matters worse, their rescue helicopter crashed, nearly killing him. Did Hahn give up? No, he helped the injured helicopter pilot before deciding to rescue the mountain climber on foot. With the help of several other people, he succeeded.



God is like that. He doesn't give up on us, and He rescues us. As it says in Psalm 40:2, **"He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand."**

Oftentimes, people think that if they get themselves into a mess, they can get themselves out without any help. The problem with sin is that the harder we try to find our way back on our own, the more lost we become.

For example, you might try to hide your mess-ups. You might hide a vase you broke or a bad grade from your parents. It's normal to try to hide our mess-ups, but it just doesn't work. We need to admit our sins, and we need to look for help. We can't do it all on our own.

Jesus left heaven and came down to earth, with all of its messes. Then He paid the price for our sin by dying in our place. As our rescuer, Jesus invites you to follow Him. But you aren't following Him to save yourself. You follow Him because He saved you. Jesus's death brought us back into a good relationship with our Father. And as forgiven children, we can learn how to forgive others.

It's important to remember three things about forgiveness.

- Forgiveness doesn't mean that what happened didn't matter.
- Forgiveness isn't hiding a mess-up or sweeping a problem under the rug.
- Forgiveness isn't a one-time act.

That is why forgiveness is like a mountain. A mountain can't be climbed in a single step, but a single step starts you on your journey of forgiveness.

During the week of the Mess-up, Days 6 to 12, we're going to talk about:

- How all of this hurt started in the world
- Sorting out our hurts
- Hurts on accident vs. hurts on purpose
- Hurts on the inside vs. hurts on the outside
- Hurts from loved ones and hurts in our world

## RED ALERT!

People commonly believe that Adam and Eve took a bite out of an apple in the Garden of Eden. But the Bible says they ate "fruit." It doesn't say what kind. Could it have been a banana? Who knows?

