

DAY 4

THE RISE-UP: RESTORATION



RESTORING RELATIONSHIPS

You learned yesterday that climbers and tourists leave quite a mess on the mountains. Not only does trash ruin the view of a mountain, but it greatly affects the people who call the mountain their home. Therefore, to help keep the mountains and the people who live there safe, the United Nations launched a program calling the years 2021 to 2030 the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

Restoration is the act of returning something to a former owner, place, or condition.

The United Nations wants to return the mountains to how they used to be before all of the tourists arrived. Similarly, when you restore a broken relationship with a friend or with God, you're restoring things to how they once were.

On the mountain on the next page, do some restoration work of your own:

- Cross out any trash you see on the mountainside.
- Color in some grass for the animals. Many of the mountain people are herders and farmers. If the land becomes overworked, it doesn't have as many nutrients (food for plants) in the soil. Many animals graze on grass, so less grass means less food for animals.
- Draw some crops and rain. Climate change affects the mountain, and landslides and droughts are dangerous for mountain communities.

- Place some trees on the mountain. Trees and plants hold the soil in place and prevent erosion (the movement of soil from one place to another).



A lot of effort has been made to clean up Mount Everest. Since 2014, every climber is required to bring 18 pounds of trash back off the mountain when they climb down. In addition, during the spring of 2018, special clean-up operations removed 8 tons of waste from the mountain. Then, in 2019, the base camp on China's side of the mountain was closed for clean up. People with climbing permits were allowed up the mountain, but visitors and tourists could only get to the areas below the base camp. During the closure, authorities brought 11 tons of waste down from Everest, according to *Recycling* magazine. A group also regularly leads Eco Everest Expeditions, which clean up trash on the mountain.

All of these are efforts to restore Mount Everest, making it as close as possible to the way it used to be. If we let Him, God will lead the restoration efforts in our relationships with other people...and with Him.

RETURN TO THE LORD YOUR GOD

After the Mess-up,
and the 'Fess-up,
and the Clean-up,
you need to Rise-up.

By forgiving our sin, God doesn't just clean up our mess on the outside. He cleans us from the inside out. He brings us back into relationship with Him and restores us as His children. In Moses's speech to the Israelite people in the Book of Deuteronomy, he spoke about how God restores His people.

"...and when you and your children return to the Lord your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today, then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you. Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, from there the Lord your God will gather you and bring you back." Deuteronomy 30:2-4

God's plan from the very beginning was to restore us back to a good relationship with Him and with our world. It's a big task. But God is even bigger.

During the week of the Rise-up, Days 27 to 33, we're going to talk about:

- How forgiveness picks up the pieces and puts things back together
- What it looks like to rise up out of the ashes of sin and be restored
- How to forgive people we don't even know
- What it looks like to rise up after we hurt someone else
- How Jesus rose up from the grave, coming back to life

RED ALERT!

When Babylon conquered Jerusalem in 587 B.C., many Israelites were forced into "exile." This means they were forced from their homes and many had to live in Babylon. When the Persians conquered Babylon almost 50 years later, King Cyrus let the Israelites return to the Promised Land. Israel was restored. When we restore a broken friendship, it feels much the same. It feels like coming home.



#FORGIVINGCHALLENGEKIDS