

TENSION

- There are different kind of tensions
 - o Surface
 - o Banded
 - o We all have tensions in our life as well as our faith
- This is what I know is true about you as believers
 - o When you're in a good spot with God you want to see his fame grow and people come to know him
 - o But when we get to the moment it can seem too big and the tension can collapse on us and make that vision our view of God get a lot smaller
- 2 Corinthians 12:9
 - o Band analogy
- What are 3 tensions in our lives that will shrink the God size moment down to just a human sized one
- My Past
 - o Why would people listen, believe me they know how I used to be?
 - o God's power is not confined by your past
 - o Moses
 - Exodus 3 god calls him to go back. Don't you know what I have done and who I am?
 - How will they know who sent me?
 - I am who I am
 - Will they believe me?
 - Signs
 - I can't talk very well
 - Aaron
 - I killed a guy "I already moved them out"
 - Give a story of me coming back and not thinking I would because of John
 - o Your past allows people to see God because there is no way that you can do it on your own
- Worldly realities
 - o A loved one dies, a natural disaster, house fire cancer, depression
 - o Matthew 8- Jesus calls the storm
 - Jesus is still in charge
 - If that would not have happened the line in scripture that "who is this man that even the wind and seas obey him" would not be there.
 - We face these realities of life not because of our individual past but as a result of life.
- Others
 - o We will be put in situations and face walls because of others
 - o Joseph Genesis 37-46
 - Brothers sold him slavery
 - Potiphar's wife accused him
 - Cup bearer forgot about him

- 3 types of storms of tensions that we face: our past, worldly realities, and others
 - o How does it look today? When we are in the midst of the storm/ tension
 - I want them to know but they won't believe me because of my past
 - I want to be a comfort to that person, but I do not know what to say
 - I want them to know but there is no way that they will listen or care or that I can get through to them.
- I want us to realize this truth that when things are good with God its great and we wonder why God would allow these tensions to come in our life.
 - o We need to start embracing our weakness so that Gods power can be seen
 - o God will give you more than you can handle so that we realize his power is made perfect in weakness
 - o His power gets more fully displayed when we are weak in the midst of the storm
 - Stretch the band and then get weak and have someone holding it
 - o Moses said how will they know who sent me. Jesus answered will they believe it? Jesus had an answer, I can't talk very well, Answered it
 - o Disciples said we are going to DIE, the tension was far too great for them
 - o I heard it say this way "the presence of the storm does not mean the absence of the savior" it means that we get to see gods power in a fresh new way.
- many of us would love to say we were the ones that parted the red sea or saved our family from a famine or be the ones that walked with Jesus
 - o however, none of those things would have happened without going through the storm
- Do you want to reach out to your friends?
 - o what is the tension that is stopping you from it and have you asked God for help? God doesn't just want to do it all for you he wants to use you.
- Do you want to give comfort? God works the greatest in the midst of the struggle
- Jesus' weakest moment on earth was his greatest display of supernatural power.
- We are going to face tension in our lives. Right now, we can feel like we are close to God. Tomorrow when we go to school though it can seem like we are by ourselves.
 - o Let me remind you of this. God does not promise platforms to stand on but provides tension in our lives so that he can be glorified.
 - o So, if you are looking for influence or to make an impact do not look for the easy route or a platform but look for the tension the weakness invites God to take over and use you because that is the greatest place, we will see God move

Discussion Questions:

Take some time and look more in depth into the story of Moses? *Exodus*

In what areas can you relate?

Why do we have such a hard time remember that God is bigger than our tensions.

What are some of the biggest tensions that you face in your life?

What are practical ways that you can let God step into your life?

Pray together over specific tensions that God can step into.