



Christmas Past

WARM UP

What is your favorite Christmas memory from your childhood and why?

SET IT UP

Have you ever felt stuck in the rut of your past? Whether it's what others have done to hurt us, or the way we've hurt ourselves, we define ourselves by the pain of our past. So how can we learn from our mistakes without letting them dictate our future? Let's talk about it.

CHAT IT UP

1. **When you think about your past, do you tend to dwell on the good, bad, or the ugly? Why do you think this is your natural default?**
2. Many of us have baggage from our past, such as decisions or circumstances we wish we could change. Let's read about someone from the Bible who almost let his past define him. **Read Exodus 2:11-15.**
3. After Moses had killed an Egyptian, he lived in shame for 40 years working as a shepherd. **What are some common ways people respond after experiencing a failure?** (Hint: Justify their actions, isolate themselves, beat themselves up).
4. **Read Exodus 3:7-11. How did Moses respond when God called him to lead the rescue operation for the Israelites?** (Hint: He thought he wasn't qualified because of his past.)
5. Moses defined himself by his failure and labeled himself as useless, but God wasn't done with him yet! **In what ways have you been tempted to let your past keep you from pursuing a better future?**
6. **Read Exodus 3:12.** How does God respond to Moses' excuses? (Hint: You don't need to be qualified. I am with you). **How have you seen God use your past circumstances to position you to make a difference today?**

WRAP IT UP

Your past isn't pointless; it's God's preparation for your future. At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of a Savior – the One who came into this world to give us the power to change. Because of Christ, your past can remind you, but it doesn't have to define you.

LEADER TIPS

- If your group isn't already involved in a local project this Christmas, take some time this week to highlight the \$10 Christmas Offering. Your combined giving can change the stories of at-risk women throughout NEPA. Encourage your group members to give online at parkerhill.org/ten or by texting [parkerhill](tel:77977) to 77977.