

# In The Future

Connect Group Guide - 5.3.26

## Opening Prayer

### Ice Breaker

Share a "look back" moment - what's something God has done in your life that you can point to as an "Ebenezer moment" (a "thus far the Lord has helped us" moment)?

## Key Scripture

- **1 Samuel 7:12** - "Thus far the Lord has helped us"
- **Proverbs 8:17** - "I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me"
- **Philippians 1:6** - "He who began a good work will carry it on to completion"
- **Isaiah 43:18-19** - "Forget the former things... See, I am doing a new thing"
- **Exodus 33:15** - "If your presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here"

## Message Recap

This message celebrates twelve years of God's faithfulness at Seekers Point while calling us to renewed commitment and purpose. Rooted in the truth that those who seek God will find Him, we're challenged to reflect on where He's brought us, stand firm in His promises, and look ahead to what He's still doing. It reminds us to protect His presence, stay committed, and embrace our role as lighthouses—carriers of His light to those around us. The church is not just a place we attend but a testimony of transformed lives, and the call is clear: don't lose sight of the mission. We are the light that points people to Jesus, and our lives should lead others to encounter Him.

## Main Points

1. **Look Back** - The Lord has brought us this far—He's been faithful.
2. **Stand Firm** - God's not finished—keep moving forward, not settling.
3. **Look Forward** - God is doing something new—prepare for what's ahead.

4. **Protect the Presence** - God's presence makes everything possible—without it, we don't move.
5. **Stay Committed** - Every person matters—the next chapter needs greater faith, unity, and surrender.
6. **Keep the Light Burning** - We're here to guide people home—keep the mission clear and the light bright.

## Discussion Questions

1. What are some "Ebenezer moments" in your spiritual journey where you can clearly see God's faithfulness?
2. How has your life or story changed since you started attending Seekers Point (or began your relationship with Christ)?
3. Why is it important to remember what God has done, even as we move forward?
4. What does it mean that "12 years is not a plateau, it's a platform"? How does this apply to your personal spiritual life?
5. In what areas of your life are you tempted to "coast" rather than continue growing?
6. How can we maintain momentum in our faith without burning out?
7. The message mentioned that sometimes we fight God's changes like a baby fighting a diaper change. Where might you be resisting God's work in your life?
8. What "seeds" have you been digging up because you're impatient to see fruit?
9. What new thing might God be calling you to in this next season?
10. What does it mean to "protect the presence" of God in our personal lives? In our church?
11. How do we keep God's presence as our priority when life gets busy or programs become routine?
12. Share a time when you experienced God's presence in a powerful way. What made that moment different?

13. The message mentioned people who "served when it was hard, gave when it stretched them, stayed when it would have been easier to leave." What does commitment look like in your current season?
14. Where is God calling you to serve or give that might stretch you?
15. How can we encourage each other to stay committed when things get difficult?
16. In the lighthouse story, the people became so focused on comfort that they forgot their mission. Where might we be doing this personally or as a church?
17. The message stated that 99% of people come to church because they see Jesus in YOU during the week. How does this challenge you?
18. Who in your life needs to see the "light" of Jesus through you this week?

## Practical Applications

### Personal Reflection

Consider these questions individually:

- What is God specifically calling me to surrender today?
- Where have I been saying "no" to God (through inaction or resistance)?
- What is my "yes" going to be this week?

### Group Commitments

Have each person share ONE specific action they will take this week:

- **Invite** someone to church or a church event
- **Serve** in a specific ministry area
- **Reconcile** with someone (make things right)
- **Surrender** to a calling God has placed on your heart
- **Be baptized** or take a next step in your faith journey

# Prayer Requests & Closing

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## Leader Notes

- Be sensitive to different perspectives on Israel; focus on biblical teaching rather than politics
- Encourage participation from everyone, but don't force anyone to share
- If someone wants to give their life to Christ during discussion, be prepared to pray with them
- Keep the discussion focused on personal application, not just theological debate
- Consider inviting someone knowledgeable about Israel or Jewish culture to a future meeting