

EMBRACING

# Change

Hi Revive Family,

This week, we wanted to take a closer look at how we respond to change. We are all facing upcoming changes and transitions in our lives, including the changes that are coming up for Revive (going back in-person, reducing our zoom meeting schedule).

Change is hard for many of us, and yet change is a natural part of life and something that is always happening. Experiencing change is part of what it means to be human. And while not all changes are good, change itself is good because it brings meaning and richness to life.

In the devotional, we look at several interactions between Jesus and his disciples to understand some common patterns of how people can respond to change. Below is a summary of the patterns we identify, as well as an invitation for an alternative way we can respond to change:

| COMMON PATTERN  | INVITATION FOR EMBRACING CHANGE   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Denial:</b> Pretending like change isn't happening or choosing to ignore the change<br/> <b>Scripture:</b> Peter denying that Jesus must die (Matthew 16:21-22)</p>   | <p><b>Engagement:</b> Facing change head on, allowing ourselves time to process and prepare for the change</p>                  |
| <p><b>Resistance:</b> Actively fighting against change that is coming or is happening<br/> <b>Scripture:</b> Drawing swords against the men who are coming to arrest Jesus (Matthew 26:50-52)</p>   | <p><b>Partnership:</b> Choosing to contribute and do our part in changing the future for the better</p>                         |
| <p><b>Holding On to the Past:</b> Not stepping into the new reality, but instead trying to recreate or continue living in the past<br/> <b>Scripture:</b> The disciples turning back to their former lives of being fishermen (John 21:3)</p> | <p><b>Letting Go:</b> Taking time to mourn and surrender the old for the sake of taking hold of the new thing that has come</p> |

From reviewing the different ways we can respond, and after listening to the devotional, take time to process with God about how you might respond to the upcoming changes in your life.

**Reflection Questions:**

- First, take time to identify what are changes that are coming up or currently happening in your life?
- Take time to engage – what are your thoughts and feelings about the changes that are coming up? It is okay to have a mixture of feelings – excitement, hope, sadness, worry.
- Are there things you may need to let go of with the upcoming changes? Take time to grieve and mourn the areas that may be ending.
- In what ways can you choose to partner or come alongside the work that God is doing in your life or in your community?