



## WEEKEND RESOURCES | APRIL 16, 2023

### Week One | Stepping Up to the Plate

USE THESE QUESTIONS AND RESOURCES TO HELP YOU PROCESS THE MESSAGE IN YOUR PERSONAL STUDY TIME OR WITH YOUR GROUP.

**Message Recap:** Have you ever felt behind financially, relationally, or emotionally? Have you ever felt so behind that you didn't know how to start catching up? The more time went by, the more you lost hope. These are bottom-of-the-ninth moments. But when you feel down, don't lose hope. You're never out. You can still turn the game around.

#### » Main Points

- Do not let your past failures or your current reality define you. Let God define you.

#### » Getting Started

- What is your favorite baseball movie? Why do you enjoy it?
- Talk about a time when you felt behind in life. What did you do to catch up?

#### » Observation

- Read and reflect on [Matthew 19:23-26](#); [Romans 8:11](#)
- What are your initial reactions to these passages? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?

#### reachout

- Many of the people around you feel like they are in a bottom of the 9th situation. Take some time this week to be very observant of people around you, is there anything you can do for your neighbors, co-workers, family, friends, who may feel like they are in a bottom of the 9th situation.

#### growdeep

- What are some reasons it can be difficult for people to believe this statement about God: "Your heavenly Father specializes in turning bad situations around?"
- Read Matthew 19:23-26. In what area of your life is it tempting to believe that with God all things are not possible? Why is it difficult for you to trust God in that area?
- How would your finances, relationships, or emotions be different if you became an anything-is-possible person? What influence do you think that would have on the people around you?
- What is one area of your life in which you're currently facing a bottom-of-the-ninth moment?

#### partner with families

- It's really easy for kids to grow up fearing failure and striving for perfection. One of the ways we can combat that as parents is to help normalize talking about hard times and endurance. One of the things we say in our family is, "We can do hard things!" We also say, "Everyone is bad at something new they've never tried before."
- Talk about a time you or your spouse encountered something hard or experienced failure. Share what it felt like, how you got through it, and what you learned. If it was a time in life that you relied on God to help you get through, talk about that, too!

#### » Next Steps and Prayer

- Remember: the same Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. Are you allowing others to tell you the game is over? What areas of your life do you need to start listening to a new voice? How would God define you?
- Close by praying that God would help you recognize that even though your situation might look bleak, it does not define you.