



WEEKEND RESOURCES | SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

Belay On | Backcountry

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

Message Recap: The Backcountry is a beautiful place, off the beaten path, but not the destination. Here we're asking, "What's next?" We're looking forward to growing in our faith, but aren't quite sure how. We might be tempted to remove our hiking gear and settle in, but this is where we want to make sure we have someone else with us to ask questions and act as our "belayer."

» Main Points

- Spiritual growth is not linear.
- Curiosity sparks a desire to grow.
- Growing requires stretching.

» Getting Started

- What is your experience with climbing or adventure hiking?
- Would you describe yourself as "adventurous?"

» Observation

- Read and reflect on [Acts 8:26-40](#); [Matthew 19:16-22](#)
- What are your initial reactions to these passages? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?

reachout

- This is a great time of year to check in on your neighbors. Are their kids back to school? Do they need any help that you might be able to offer? If you have kids that ride the bus, maybe meet your kids and the other kids at the bus stop with popsicles a day. Bring a little joy to the beginning of the school year.

growdeep

- In the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch, who do you most resonate with? Why do you think that is?
- Why is it important to ask questions about faith and Jesus?
- Who are the people in your life that you've invited to help you to keep growing in your faith? Who are you encouraging and challenging to keep moving forward?
- Read Matthew 19:16-22. What is the difference between a "Come and See" faith and a "Follow Me" faith? What prevents people from moving from one to the other?

partner with families

- Take time with your family this week to pray and ask God to give you opportunities to share your faith and talk about Jesus. Talk about who shared their faith with you when you were younger. Depending on your kids' ages, they may not know why this is an important part of our faith. Have that conversation with them!

» Next Steps and Prayer

- Take the Growth Trek Self-Assessment this week at ehills.org/weekend.
- What is a step you can take to help you get "unstuck" and stretch yourself to allow for new growth? How can your group help?
- Close by praying that God would give you opportunities to stretch and grow into a new season of your faith.