

## SESSION 7

### Turning Sneering into Cheering: Finding God in Circumstances

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#### PREMISE

*Throughout Moses' leadership, the people sneered at their circumstances. Yet, all along the way, God was providing. If they could have just recalled the circumstances He brought them through, they could have more easily seen that He was indeed leading them to a destiny. Sometimes identifying the monuments (moments of victory) and altars (moments of sin) along our journey can help us identify what God is doing in our lives. This can include hurts and pains, unexpected moments, in addition to the things we perceive as positive.*

#### EXERCISE

Work together to recall the story of Israel. Use the tools you've picked up in this class and collaborate to answer this question:

**What role did complaining and negativity play in the story of Israel?**

Verses: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What circumstances should have led Israel to be thankful?**

Verses: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Israel has a story. Each disciple has a story. How did you get to where you are today? Write your story on the handout.

What are your “monuments?” What are/were your “altars?” Go back and write “M” and “A” by each.

## FACTS

- God is leading us to a destiny (individual calling and eternal reward)
- You have gifts (1 Corinthians 12)
- You have weaknesses/growth opportunities (Colossians 1)
- God is moving in your life right now (local church is evidence of this)

Question: What do you perceive as your current circumstances?

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Is your current circumstance marked more by monuments or by “altars?”

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NOTE: Subtle altars can be God’s gifts or good things, but used for selfish purposes. Examples: personality, gifts, careers, the past,

Moment of honesty: **what do you believe God could never use you to do?**

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## PRAY

Seek the Holy Spirit: has this class brought to light moments of provision from the Lord that, maybe, you’ve overlooked up until now?

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How does God provide for his people? (answer with Biblical examples)

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How should we view suffering as a Christian?

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