

SPOOKY WEEKEND WITH BRENNNA AND DILLON

Elementary
Week 1

PARENT BIBLE STUDY

Read: Acts 2, Isaiah 58:11-12

This year has been chock-full of change. From the beginning to the end, it seems like life is on a constant, unpredictable trajectory. I have been more aware of this as the changes seem bigger, and more in my face, than in the past. The other reality is that the change, as hard and overwhelming as it has been, has grown me. It's grown me closer to God. It's grown me closer to the person he created me to be. It's healed me in big ways that brought more growth, even if that growth has felt extremely painful.

Last spring, when life forced us all to a slow, immediate change, I started running again. During my first run, I noticed there was snow on the ground, but soon after, little green buds grew on the trees and green grass was beginning to sprout. I spent weeks eagerly watching for the trees to grow out of their skeletal empty branches and green leaves to consume the empty places. One weekend I didn't run my usual route around the lake. I came back two days later to a huge surprise. It appeared, as though overnight, everything had changed. The buds had opened, and things were green and beautiful again.

2020 is getting closer and closer to ending and I think it is getting easier and easier to wish that it would over; to pry open the little green buds that await us for this upcoming year and skip some of the parts we know are going to be difficult. The reality is that the buds are not going to be healthy if we pry them open in our time. God knows what is next for all of us and what is going to help us all blossom and grow in time. He is the one who can bring beauty and growth out of the hurting and burnt places in our lives, and he will. It is just that his timing is sometimes WAY different from what we want. But we can lean into him and know that he is good, and he has a plan in all of this. He was there when the church walked through huge changes during the events of Acts, and I am sure his followers were feeling overwhelmed by the changes—and he is going to be here with us as we navigate the never-ending changes ahead.

Now, it is fall and the leaves are changing to beautiful, vibrant colors again and the trees are getting bare. Still, I know that even when they turn back to the colorless skeletons for the winter, God is getting them ready for spring.

God is also helping us get ready for spring; we just have to continue to trust him one step at a time. For now, let's try to fully enjoy the season we are in, trusting that he will continually guide us through it.

How have you seen God at work in your life and the world in the midst of all of the changes?

What are ways you can continuously take steps toward him, without knowing what is next?