

Think It Over: This section is about turning what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take your own next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

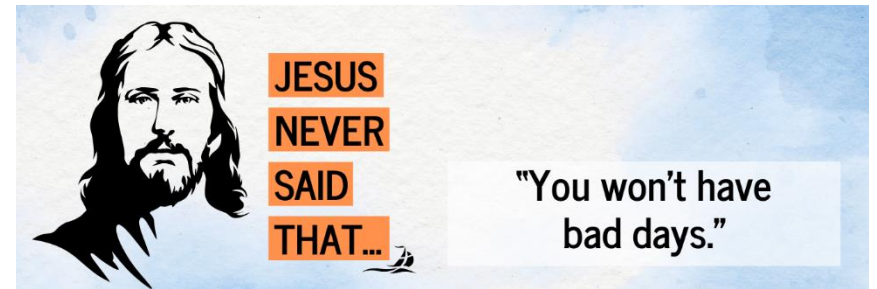
- Have you ever been in a tornado, hurricane, earthquake, or really big storm? What happened?
- What does it look like to "have a storm in your life (bad day)"? Why is a "storm" a good description for those days?
- We are all in one of three places. Which one of the three from the first page of the Message Guide best describes you right now?
- Read 1 Peter 1:6–7 NLT. How do trials (bad days) show a person's faith? What is the process that reveals genuine faith? Explain the statement "Faith that has been tested is a faith that can be trusted." What is reassuring about that? What is concerning about that?
- Read Matthew 7:24–29 MSG. What are your first impressions? Review the comparisons of the builders. What was same regarding each builder? What was different? How does that translate into how we build our lives? What does it take for the one home to crash? How have you seen a life crash because of what it was built on? How have you seen a Christ follower's live crash? When you built some of your life on sand? How can you protect yourself from building your life on sand?
- Read 2 Timothy 3:5 ERV. What do you think is happening when devotion to the Lord is not causing a continuing life change? What do bad days reveal in a person living this way? Why can bad days be a gift? Do you really want to know the places where you have built your life on sand? How do you go about rebuilding a life on the rock? How bad does it have to get for a person to honestly look at what they are building their life on? How painful do the bad days have to get for you to make a change? When was the last time you did make a change? Where in your life do you currently need to harness that kind of resolve to change? When will you? Remember, "Don't blow a good bad day!"

Next Steps: Do you agree intellectually, emotionally, or some combination of them both, with the Bottom line: **Don't Blow a Good Bad Day?** Why or why not? How are you intentionally moving it from your head to your heart? How would internalizing John 16:33 from Message Guide help? Which of the last five bullets need to grow in your life? How will you go about addressing them?

Changing Your Mind: Choose one of the verses listed in the Message Guide and commit it to heart.



If you missed a message,
visit www.scc.website
or request a CD at Guest Services.



³³Jesus said: ³³"...In this world you will be plagued with times of trouble. I've told you all this so that by trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace [not overcome by feelings of entrapment] But take heart! I have overcome the world."
John 16:33 NIV, Voice, MSG, DFS

➤ You will experience bad days.

¹²My friends, don't be surprised at the painful things that you are now suffering, which are testing your faith...
1 Peter 4:12 ERV

We are all in one of three places:

- You are currently in the middle of a bad day.
- A bad day is coming and you don't know about it.
- You are just walking away from a bad day that is finally over.

⁶So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. ⁷These trials will show that your faith is genuine...
1 Peter 1:6–7 NLT

Faith that has been tested
is a faith that can be trusted.

☞ You are positioned for bad days.

²⁴“These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. ²⁵Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock. ²⁶“But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don’t work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. ²⁷When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards.” ²⁸When Jesus concluded his address, the crowd burst into applause. They had never heard teaching like this. ²⁹It was apparent that he was living everything he was saying—quite a contrast to their religion teachers! This was the best teaching they had ever heard.

Matthew 7:24–29 MSG

➤ Comparing the builders:

→ both heard Christ

→ both built homes

→ both looked similar

➤ Contrasting the builders:

→ one on the rock

→ one on the sand

⁵They will go on pretending to be devoted to God, but they will refuse to let that “devotion” change the way they live. Stay away from these people!
2 Timothy 3:5 ERV

Bottom Line:

Don’t Blow a Good Bad Day!

⁴He comes alongside us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, he brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times so that we can be there for that person just as God was there for us.

2 Corinthians 1:4 MSG

➤ You can choose to focus
on the good or the bad.

➤ You can get bitter or better.

➤ Where we are powerless,
God is powerful.

➤ God wants to use your bad days to
display His greatness in your life.

No test equals no testimony.*

➤ Your bad day’s aftermath can touch
another person’s life.

*Pastor Dave often uses concepts and ideas from a variety of resources when writing a message. If you have any questions regarding these sources, please don’t hesitate to contact Dave at daves@senecacommunitychurch.com.

To help you turn what God is saying to you into action steps,
consider using the “Think It Over” section on the back.