

BIG IDEA

When we celebrate Jesus, we get filled up and emptiness fades.

KEY VERSE

"If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked Him and he would have given you living water." **John 4:10**

SUMMARY

Taking a break is an invitation to celebrate! When we celebrate what Jesus has already done for us, our tanks get filled and emptiness disappears (**John 4:10**). Emptiness can make us desperate and delusional. When we feel discontent, empty, or lost, Jesus invites us to take a break. Even Jesus experienced being exhausted on his journey but He was never empty. He may have been fatigued, but He was always full because his fullness came from God (**John 4:5-6**).

3 GIFTS FROM JESUS TO CELEBRATE

1. **Jesus pursued us (Psalm 23:6)**. Because of love, Jesus can't help but chase after us. A shepherd who loses his sheep will leave the 99 and chase after the one (**Luke 15:4**). A shepherd cares for his lost, and so does Jesus. Jesus doesn't just follow you; He chases you down. Aren't you glad Jesus is more interested in pursuing wounded sheep than He is stockpiling wool? That's a gift worth celebrating.

Share a time you were aware of Jesus' pursuit of you. How is God inviting you to change your perspective to see His pursuit of you?

2. **Jesus redeemed us**. Remember the story of Hosea and Gomer? The Lord asked Hosea to marry Gomer, who had a compromised reputation (**Hosea 1:2**). Gomer was a picture of unfaithful Israel. Hosea's love represented God's love for Israel. Despite Hosea's tender, self-less love, Gomer continues to chase after counterfeit affections (**Hosea 3:1**). Just as we saw the Israelites do as they turned from God. In Gomer's shame, Hosea covered her with love. In our shame, God covers us with his love. The Lord loves extravagantly, no matter the cost of redemption! Jesus was that payment, and now we can live righteous and free because of it.

What counterfeit affections have you run to in times where you felt empty or alone? Where in your life can you fill up on Jesus instead of the world?

3. **Jesus healed us**. Through Jesus, everyone who believes is set free from sin (**Acts 13:39**). We can take this truth and make it our own! Whatever it is! Whatever we have been accused of, Jesus has pardoned it. Whatever confines us, Jesus has conquered it. Whatever binds us, Jesus has broken it. Whatever entangles us, Jesus has unraveled it. Whatever haunts us, Jesus has defeated it. Whatever oppresses us, Jesus has overcome it! In this life our hearts are broken in a variety of different ways, but Jesus specializes in mending broken hearts (**Isaiah 61:1**). Jesus wants to cinch up whatever is broken; suture whatever is torn; and mend whatever hurts.

Share a story of when you invited Jesus to mend a part of your life. Where can you invite Jesus in to bind, unravel, defeat, or overcome in your life?

FINAL THOUGHTS

Jesus offers a life full of freedom and fulfillment. When we celebrate and acknowledge the gifts Jesus has given to us, we are able to live life fully. Jesus pursues us with everything, redeems every sin, and heals every broken part of our lives. Jesus never intended for us to walk alone or ignore our wounds. He came to heal us and set us free. Those are all gifts worth celebrating!

Other Scriptures (John 4:5-6, John 4:7)