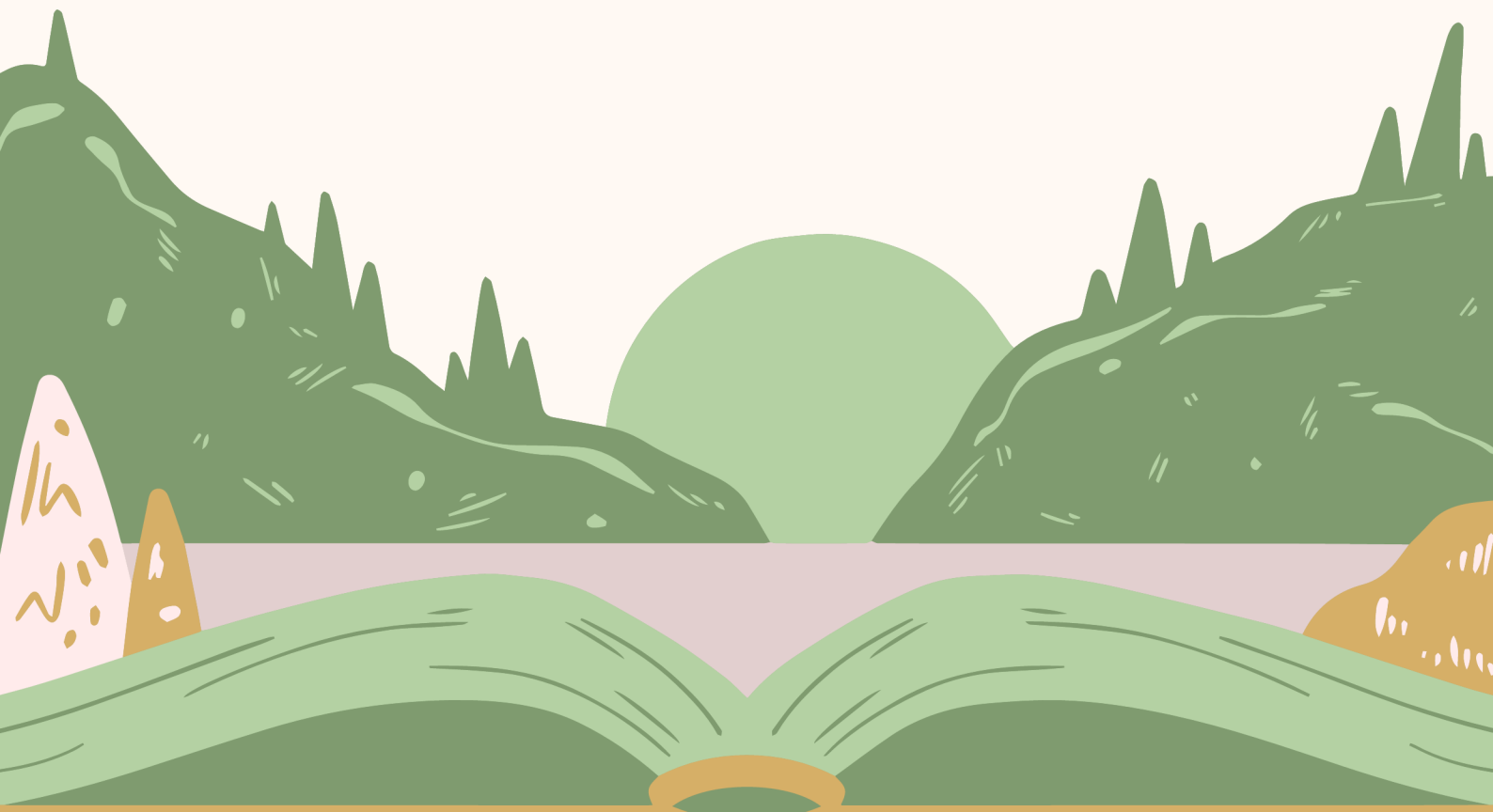


# Stories of Hope

A 4-Week Guide to  
Sharing Your Story

Discover how God can use your story  
to bring hope to others!



# INTRODUCTION - EVERYONE HAS A STORY

Every person carries a story.

Our stories include beginnings, struggles, moments of hope, and a future still being written. When we take time to reflect on our lives, we begin to see how God has been present through every chapter.

This four-week guide will help you reflect on your story and share it with others.

Over the next four weeks we will explore four chapters that exist in every life story:

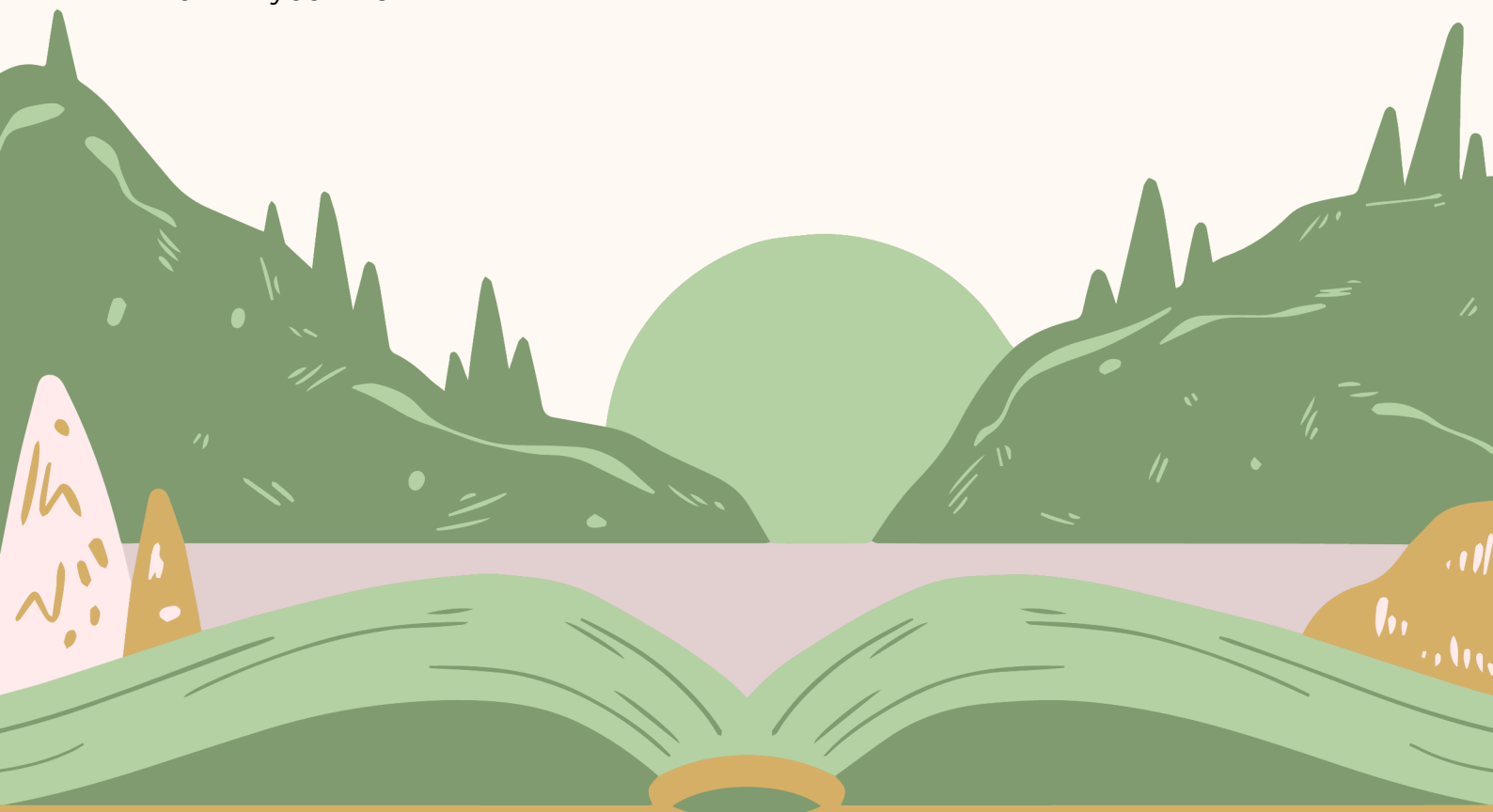
Beginnings → Obstacles → Hope → Future

Each week you will:

- Reflect on your experiences
- Write part of your story
- Share your story with others

The goal is not perfection.

The goal is honesty, encouragement, and discovering the ways God has been at work in your life.



# HOW THIS GUIDE WORKS?

## How the Study Works

Each week follows a simple rhythm:

### **1. Opening Scripture**

We begin by grounding our conversation in God's Word.

### **2. Group Conversation**

Together we discuss questions that help us reflect on our stories.

### **3. Personal Reflection**

Each person writes a portion of their story.

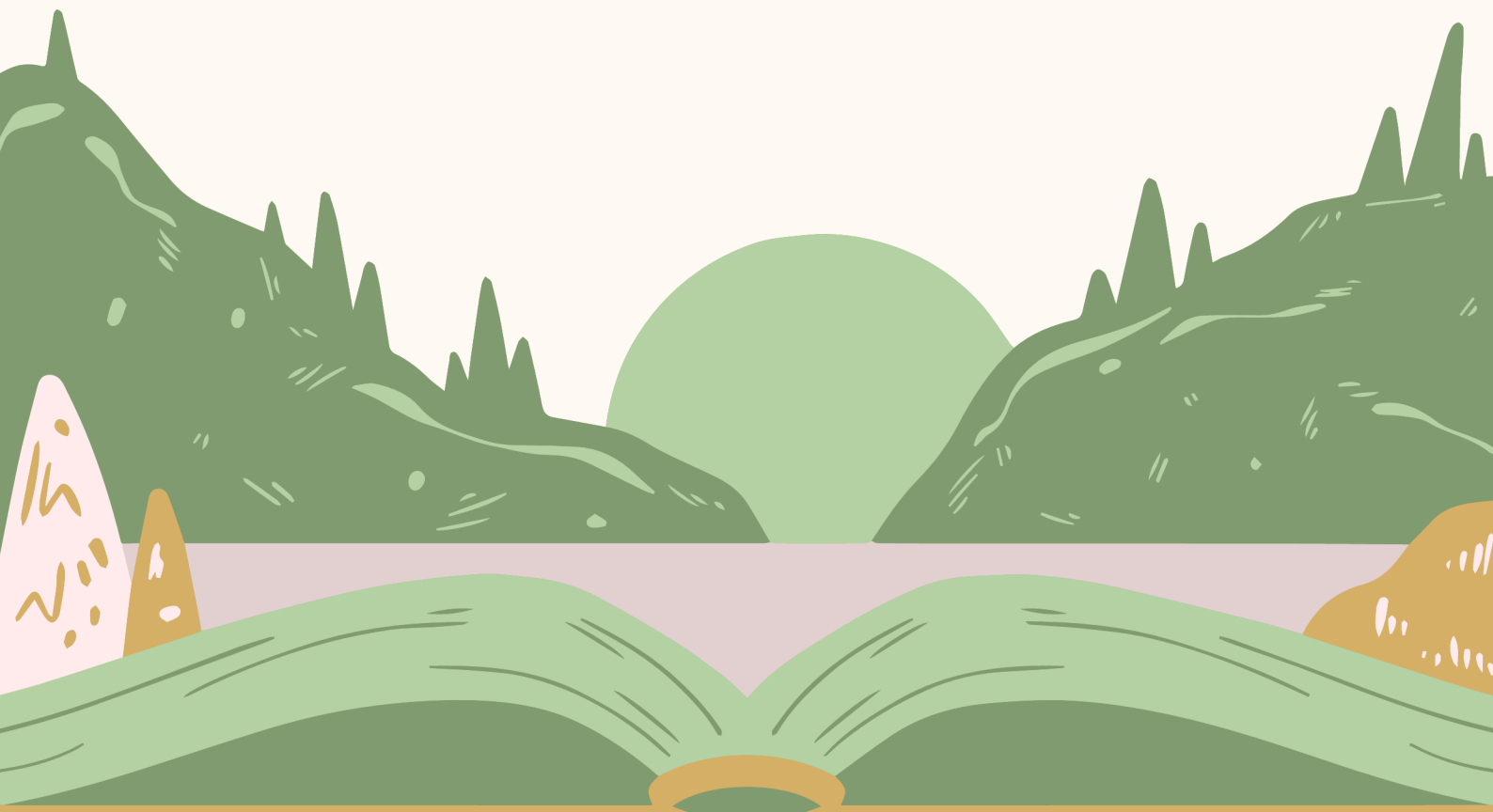
### **4. Sharing Time**

Volunteers share their story with the group.

### **5. Take-Home Assignment**

Before the next gathering, you will write the next chapter of your story.

By the end of four weeks, you will have written and shared your Story of Hope.



# CHAPTER 1 - BEGINNINGS

## Beginnings - Where Your Story Started

Every story has a beginning.

The opening pages of your life include the people, places, and experiences that shaped who you are today.

## Opening Scripture - Psalm 139:13-16

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb."

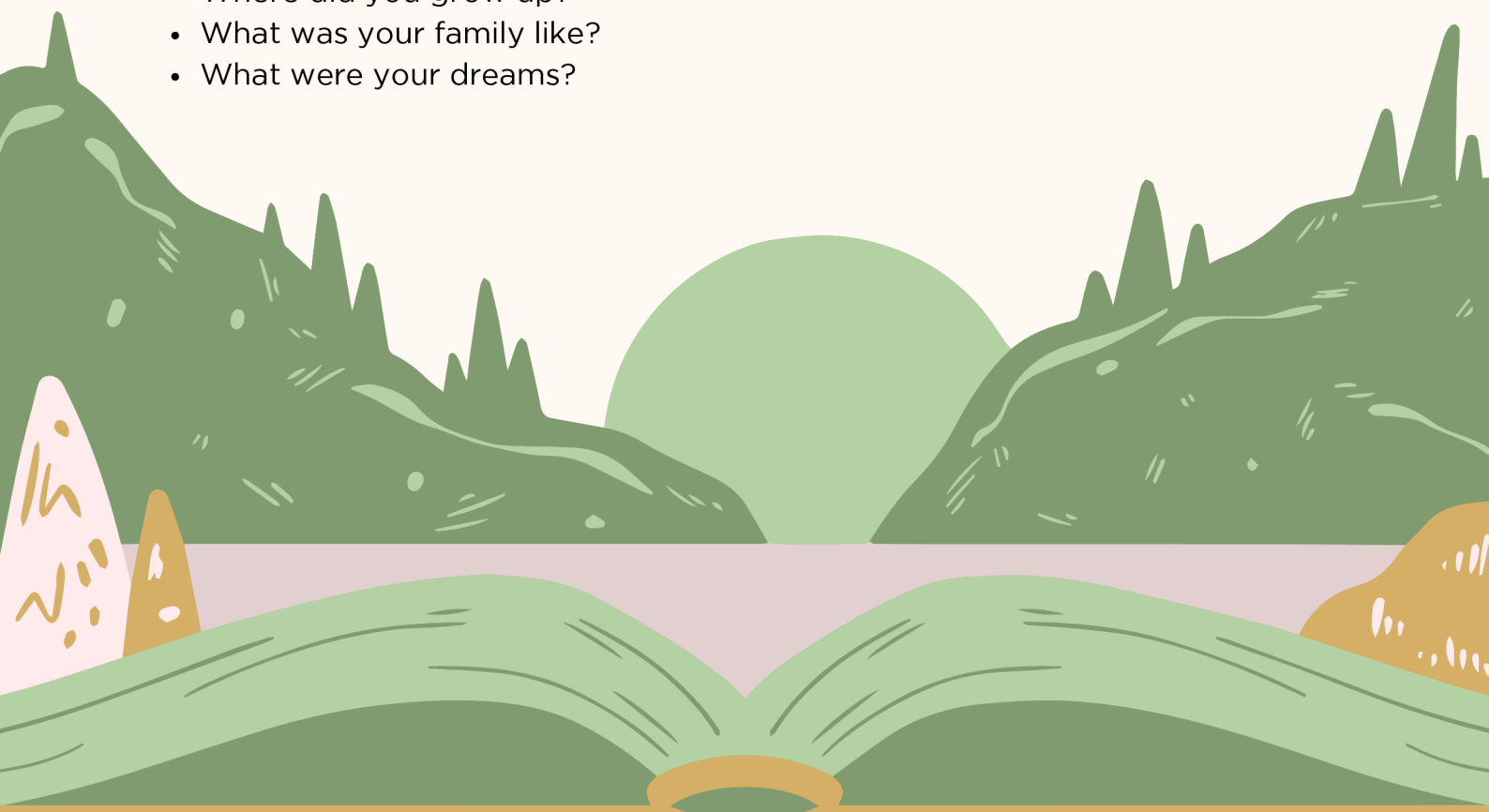
God has been present through out your entire life, from the very beginning!

## Group Conversation

- What was the environment you grew up in?
- Who were the most influential people in your early life?
- What were some positive memories from childhood?
- What were some shaping experiences growing up?

## Write Your Beginning

- Where did you grow up?
- What was your family like?
- What were your dreams?



# CHAPTER 1 - BEGINNINGS

## Sharing Time

Invite 2-3 people to share their beginnings.

Ask others to:

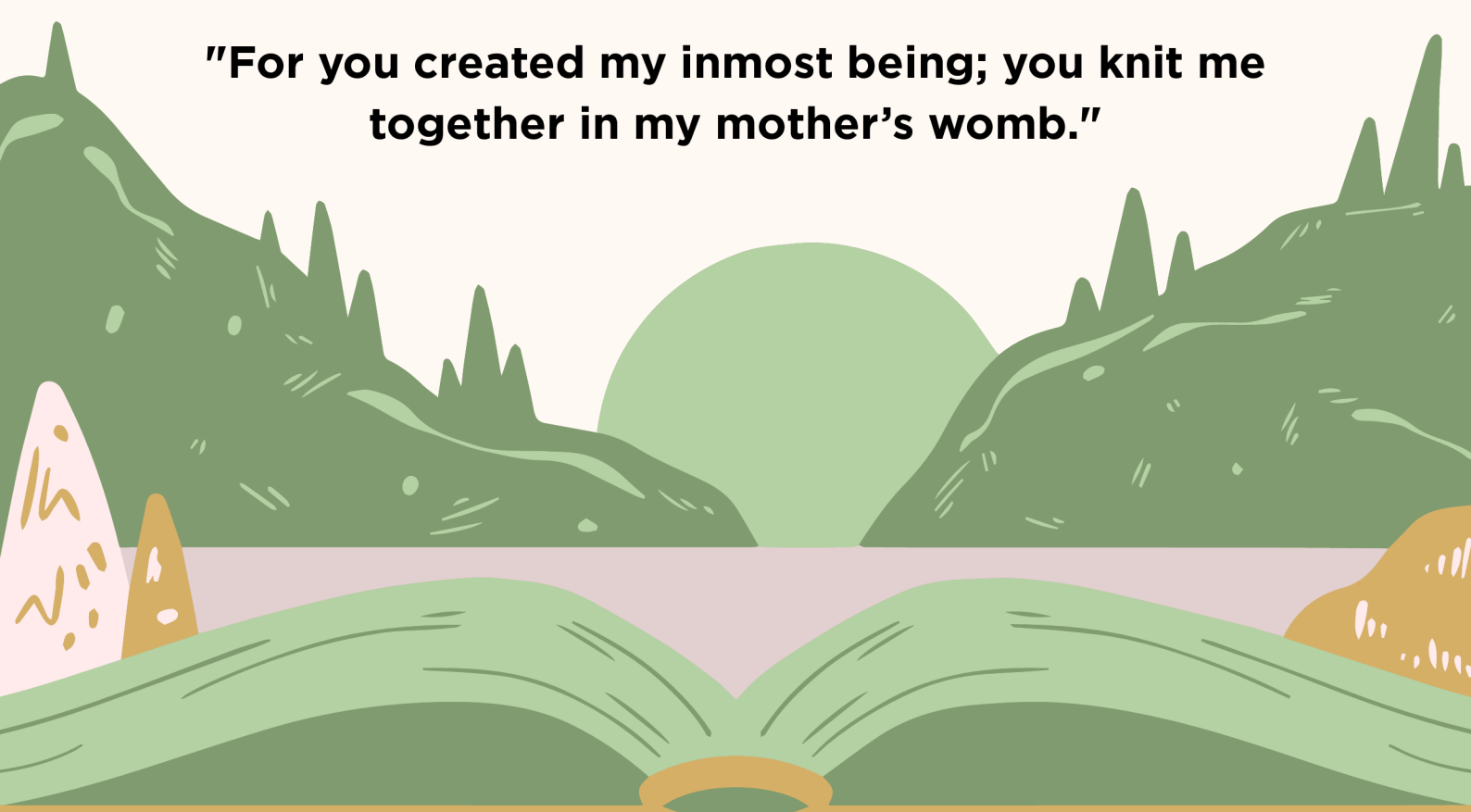
- Listen carefully
- Ask thoughtful questions
- Encourage one another

## Take-Home Assignment

Before we meet next, write 1-2 paragraphs that describe the beginnings of your story and remember, no detail is too small and nothing is insignificant in your life experience.

## Conclude in Prayer

Lord, we ask you to help us see your hands in our life. To see how you have shaped us, raised us up, saved us and called us to join you in sharing hope. Help us see how we fit in your story. Amen!



**"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb."**

# **Room to Write Your First Chapter**

# CHAPTER 2 - OBSTACLES

## The Challenges in Your Story

Every meaningful story includes conflict. Obstacles shape our lives and often become the moments that lead to growth and transformation.

## Opening Scripture - Romans 5:3-5

"We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."

Remember! God can and does work through even the hardest chapters of our lives.

## Group Discussion

Take time to discuss the following:

- What kinds of challenges shape people the most? What about in your life?
- What has been the most challenging season of your life?
- How have those obstacles or gauntlets shaped your faith?

## Group Discussion

Reflect on the challenges of your story.

- What hardship have you faced?
- Were there seasons of confusion, loss, or difficulty?
- What moments felt like a turning point?



# **CHAPTER 2 - OBSTACLES**

## **Take-Assignment**

Before next week, write 1-2 paragraphs about a season of struggle that shaped your life.

## **Concluding Prayer**

Father, we believe you are good and yet we believe and know that you shape us and often call us to yourselves in our darkest moments in life. Help us see your love in our struggle and aid us in seeing how they have shaped us. Heal our wounds and help us heal others. Amen!

## **Room to Write Your Second Chapter**

# CHAPTER 3 - HOPE

## Hope

Hope is where everything changed! This is where your story turned. Where God brought you on the other side of your struggle. Jesus entered the story and he changed everything about you.

## Opening Scripture - 2 Corinthians 5:17

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

God specializes in turning broken stories into stories of hope.

## Group Discussion

Discuss Together:

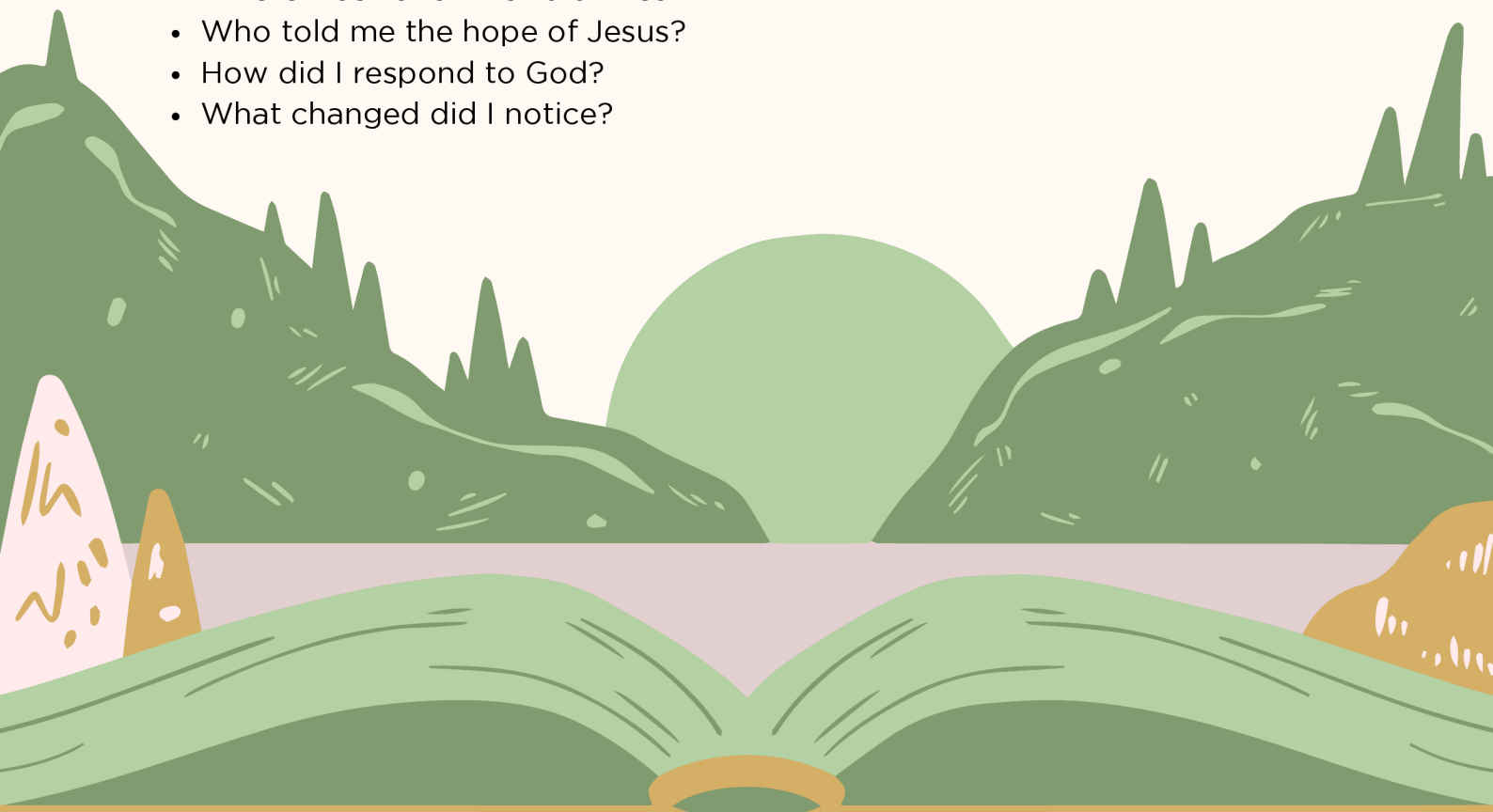
- When did Jesus enter your story? What was that like?
- How did Jesus change you, your life, or your family?
- How does faith change a person's story?

## Personal Reflection

Write your hope-filled turning point. Reflect on the moment Jesus step into your life. Think about how he changed you and what he brought to you.

Consider the following:

- Where was I and what did I hear?
- Who told me the hope of Jesus?
- How did I respond to God?
- What changed did I notice?



# **CHAPTER 3 - HOPE**

## **Take-Assignment**

Before next week, write 1-2 paragraphs describing where hope entered your story.

## **Concluding Prayer**

Father, we confess before you that we were lost and undone without Christ. We were with out you and without hope in this world. But you were rich in grace, love, and mercy toward us. You forgave us and you gave us new life in Christ. Help us identify how you changed our lives so that we can tell others confidently how you can transform their lives.

## **Room to Write Your Second Chapter**

# CHAPTER 4 - FUTURE

## Future

Your story is not finished because God's story is not finished. God continues to shape your life to enter the future that he has promised you. Take heart! God is not done.

## Opening Scripture - Philippians 1:6

"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

The best chapters of our lives have yet to be written!

## Group Discussion

Discuss Together:

- What does it mean that God is still writing your story?
- Where do you see him working in your life right now?
- What kind of future do you hope for? You? Your children? Friends?

## Personal Reflection

Write your future by reflecting on where your story - life - is heading!

Consider the following:

- What is God teaching you right now?
- What do you feel God calling you to do today?
- What hopes do you have for your future?
- How do you want your story to impact others?



# **Room to Write Your Second Chapter**

## **Final Sharing**

Share in 3-5 minutes the version of your story using all four chapters:

## **Beginnings - Obstacles - Hope - Future**

## **Final Encouragement**

Your story matters! God has been present in every chapter of your life and he is still writing your story today.

The good moments.

The difficult ones.

The turning points.

And the future ahead.

When you share your story, it may become the beginning of hope in someone else's story. Your story is part of God's greater story - the story of God bringing new hope and purpose through our stories of hope.

## **Prayer**

Lord, you have called us and sent us into the world to offer hope to the hopeless, purpose to the lost, and healing to the wounded. Empower us to share the gospel as we share our story to the world. Amen!

# **Room to Write Your Entire Story.**