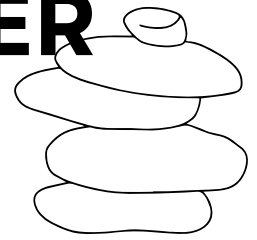


HERE I RAISE MY EBENEZER

Reflecting on the presence of God in every season



Come Thou Fount of Every Blessings

Come Thou fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise

Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it
Mount of Thy redeeming love

Here I raise my Ebenezer
Here by Thy great help I've come
And I hope by Thy good pleasure
Safely to arrive at home

Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God
He to rescue me from danger
Interposed His precious blood
(Precious blood)

Oh, that day when freed from sinning
I shall see Thy lovely face
Clothed then in blood washed linen
How I'll sing Thy sovereign grace

Come my Lord, no longer tarry
Take my ransomed soul away
Send Thine angels now to carry
Me to realms of endless days

Oh, that day when freed from sinning
I shall see Thy lovely face
Clothed then in blood washed linen
How I'll sing Thy sovereign grace

Come my Lord, no longer tarry
Take my ransomed soul away
Send Thine angels now to carry
Me to realms of endless days

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to Thee

Prone to wander, Lord I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, oh take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above

Here's my heart
Oh take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above

Song Reflections

1. The song is written like a prayer. What are some things the author is expressing to God?
2. What lines stand out to you? Why?
3. What scriptures are brought to mind when you hear/read this song?
4. An Ebenezer is a pile of stacked stones that represents the Lord's help. Why is the artist raising an Ebenezer?
5. Think about your life experiences. What would your Ebenezer express? How has the Lord helped you in your life?

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Introduction

Ebenezer's are stacked rocks representing what the Lord has done to help you. The word translates as "stone of help" and is a tangible reminder of all the Lord has done. Too often, we forget how God sustained or delivered us from times of trials, so having a place to record and remember those times is crucial to our ever-wandering hearts.

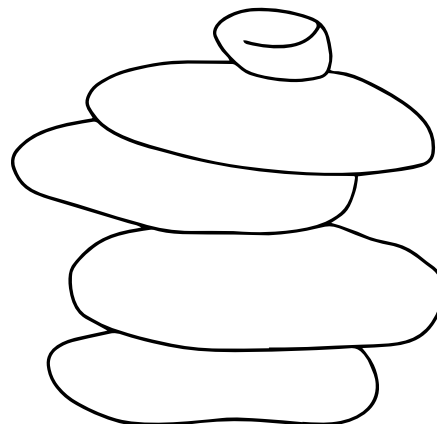
In 1 Samuel 4, the prophet Samuel erects an Ebenezer after the deliverance of God's people from their vicious enemies, the Philistines. The Israelites were to remember that there is nothing to fear when they place their trust in God alone.

Chapter Context

Samuel grew up under the supervision of the prophet Eli. Eli trained and mentored Samuel, and it was Samuel who God chose to establish as the next prophet for Israel. Before Samuel takes leadership, God punishes Israel for their wickedness and idolatry and gives them over to their enemies, the Philistines. For twenty years, the people lamented after the Lord. They were in ruins because they did not keep their hearts sealed to God.

At this time, God uses Samuel to lead the people back to Him and enjoy the benefits of belonging entirely to the King of kings.

Read 1 Samuel 7:3-17



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Observe the Text

1. What commands does Samuel give the people to represent their repentant heart (v. 3)? How did they respond (v. 4)?
2. What were the people doing at Mizpah (v. 5-6)?
3. What do you think the attitude of the people was at Mizpah (v. 5-6)?
4. What were the Philistines going to do to the Israelites (v. 7)?
5. How did the people react when they heard what the Philistines were going to do (v. 8).
6. What does Samuel do for the people of Israel (v. 9)? How does God answer (10-11)?
7. Why does Samuel raise an Ebenezer?

Think About the Text

1. Describe Israel's behavior in this section? What do you learn from them? How do you relate to them?
2. Describe Samuel's role in the passage? What do you learn from him? How do you relate to him?
3. What do you learn about God?
4. What parts of the story echo similarities to the gospel?
5. Why do you think it was important for Samuel to take the time to raise an Ebenezer?
6. Why is it important to take time to reflect where you have been and to examine the hand of the Lord in your life?
7. How might taking times to remember help prepare you for the future?

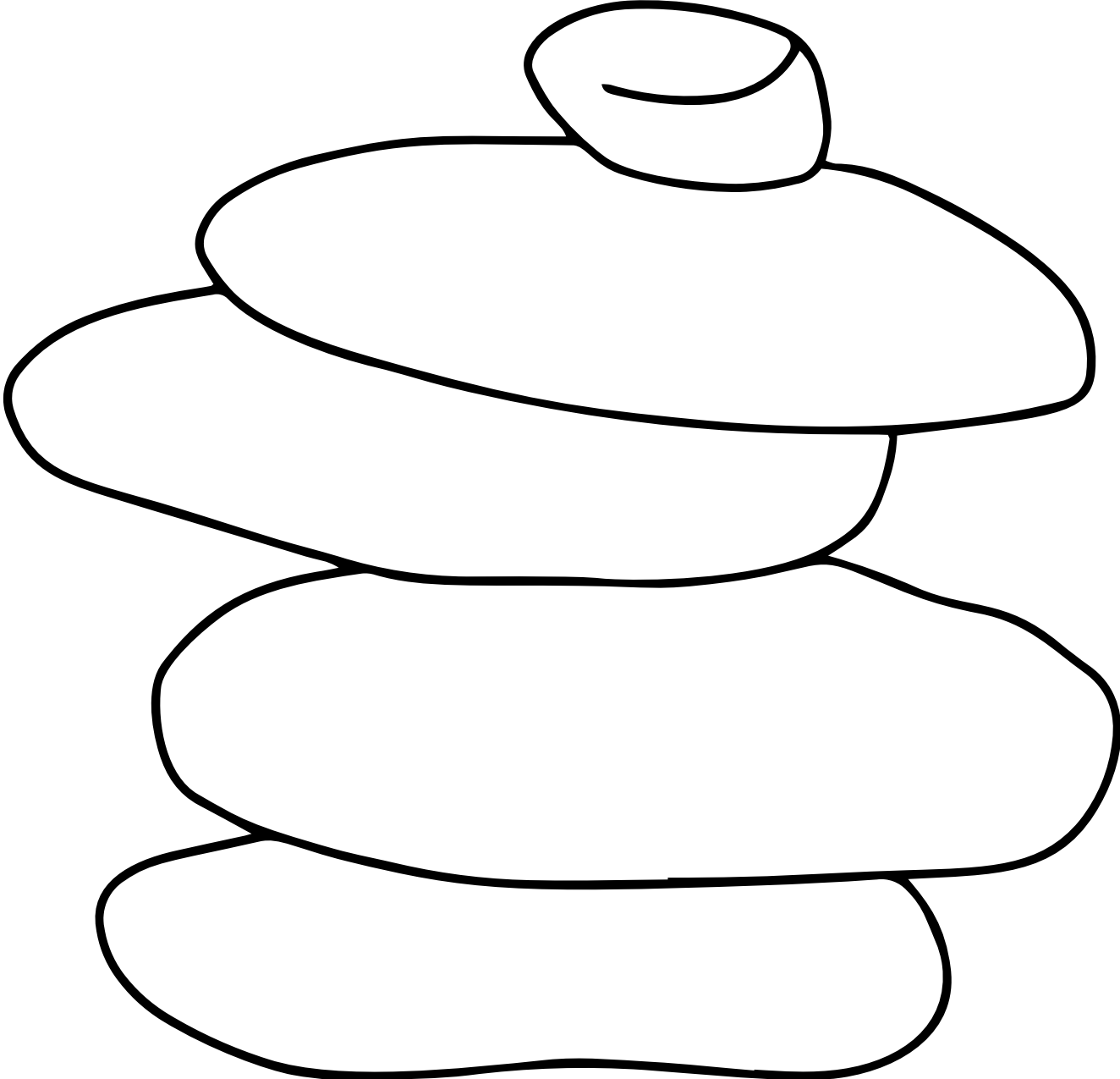
Ebenezer Application

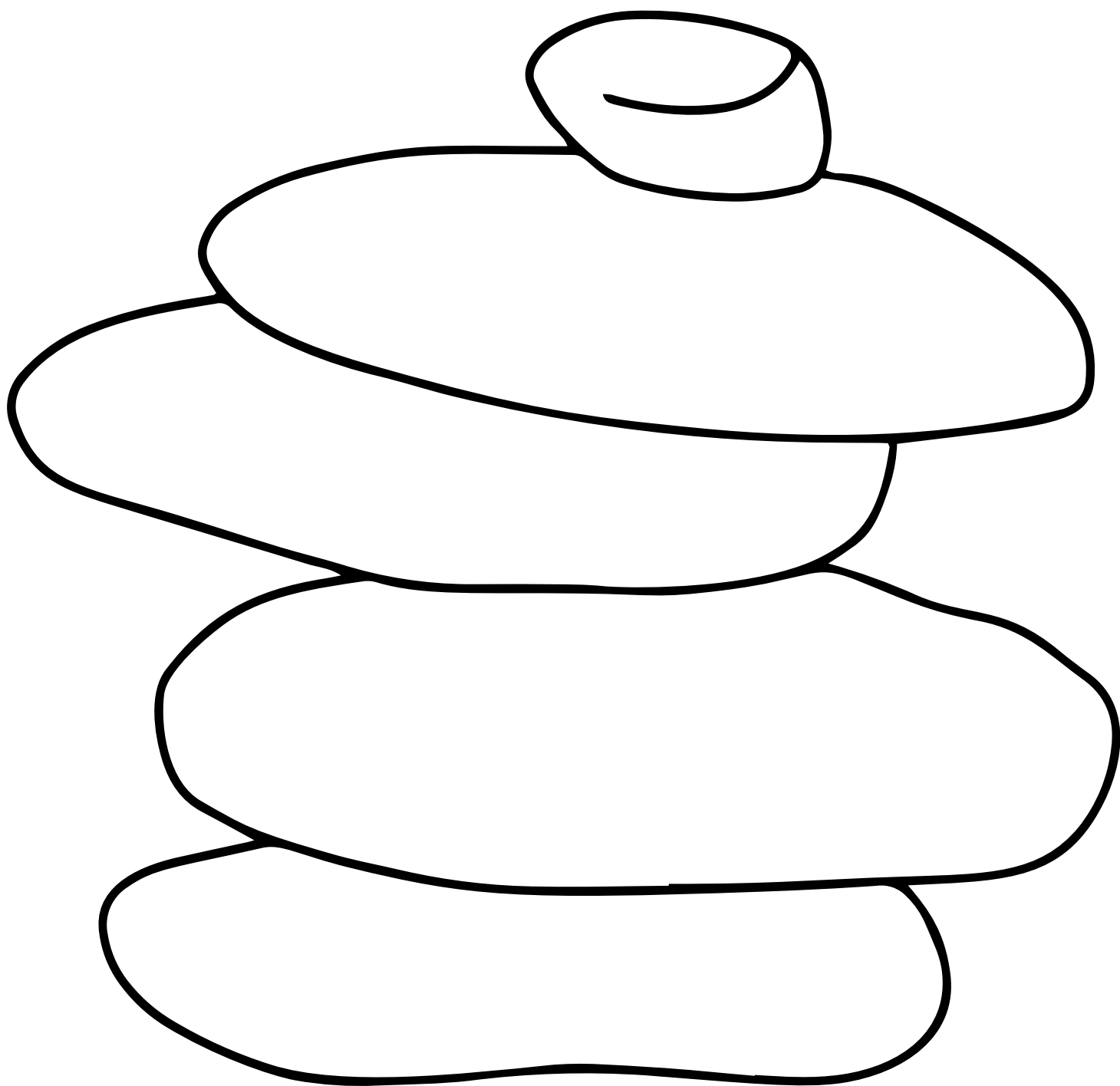
Life moves quicker than we realize. If we rush into a new season without first reflecting on where we have come from, we do a disservice to ourselves and God because we aren't designating time to grieve, rejoice, and learn from the experiences we have encountered and that God has walked us through. In 1 Samuel 4, the Israelite people are turning from their sins and towards God. Through the process, they experience His forgiveness and saving power. Samuel raises an Ebenezer to remind all of how God is the one in control.

This week, carve out time to reflect on your past season of life and ask God to reveal himself to you through those experiences. Then raise an Ebenezer by printing out a handout or finding actual stones to stack and write a word on each stone that represents God's role in your last season. Refer to this Ebenezer throughout your next season (new year, semester, month, etc.). You can add to it or make a new one every so often. The point is to take the time and remember.

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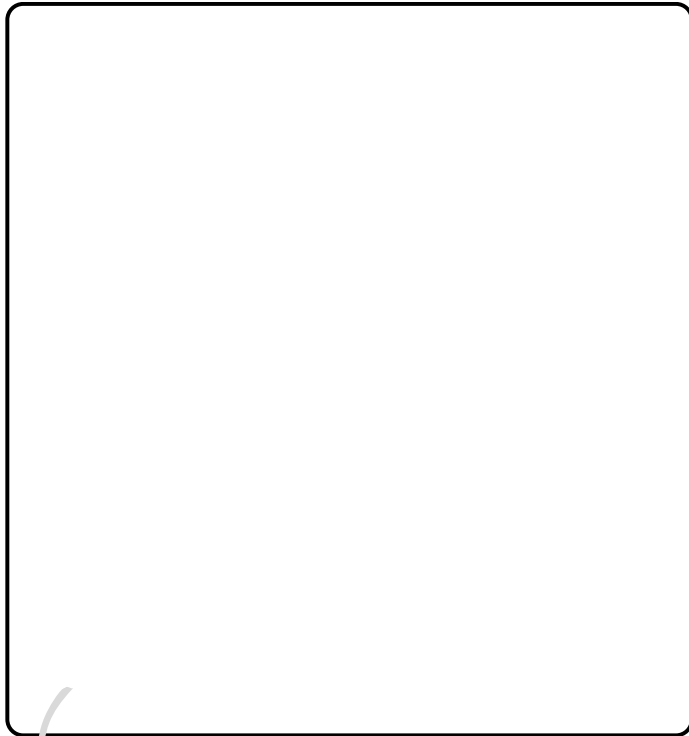




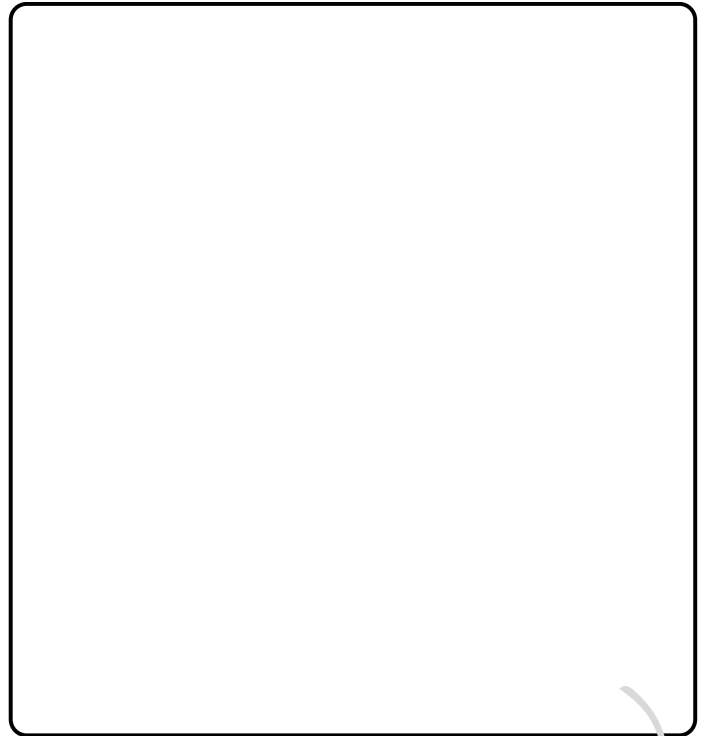
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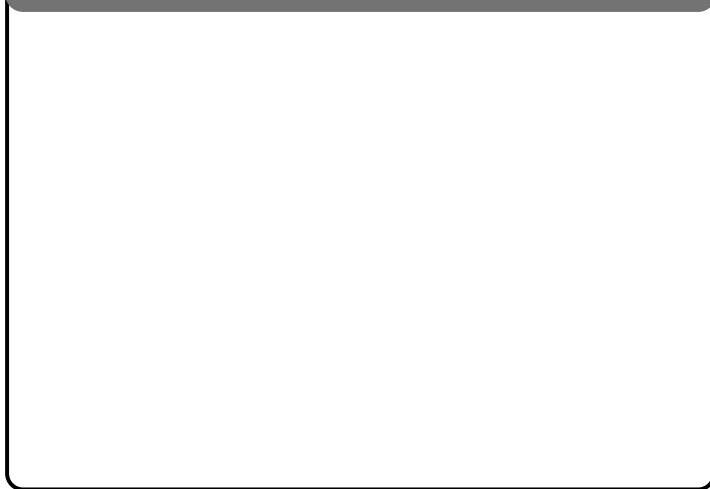
List of this Season's Highlights



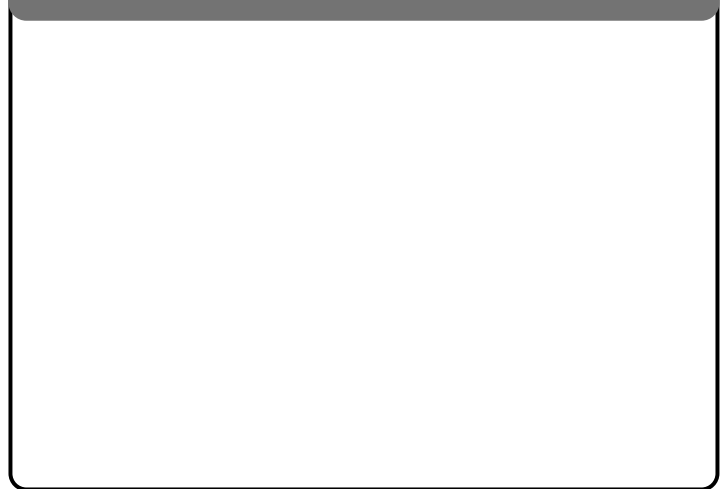
List of this Season's Challenges



Where was God in these high points?



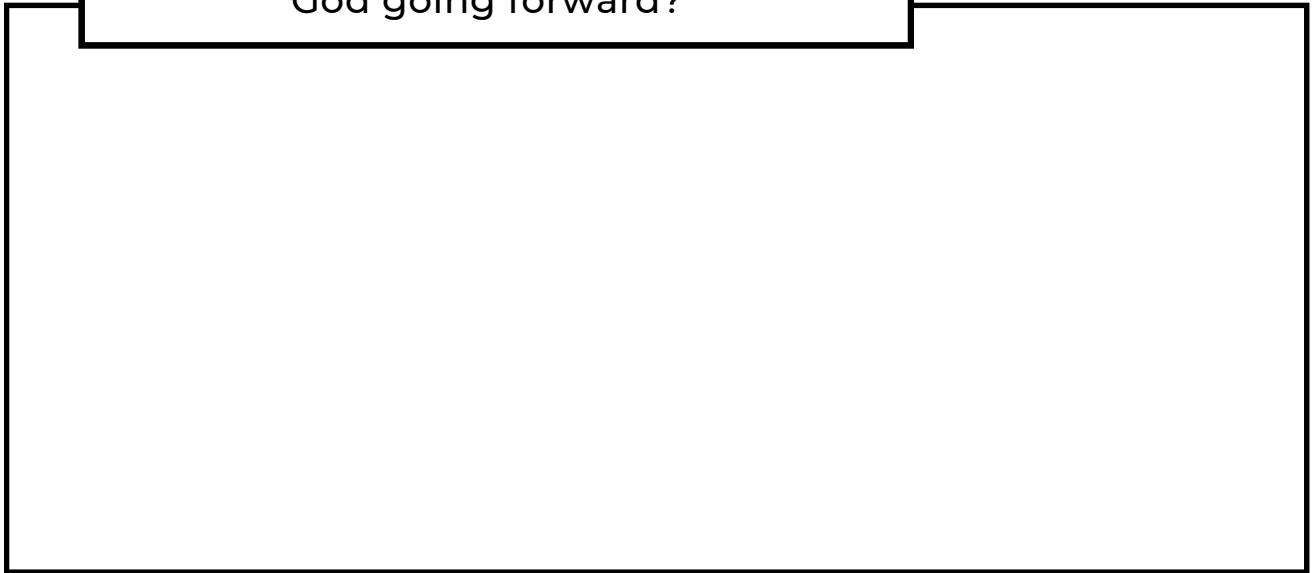
Where was God in these challenges?



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What do I want to remember about
God going forward?



On each stone, write
a word that represent
God's character or
role in your life from
this past season.

