

## Necessary Losses

### Reading Schedule

- Deuteronomy 34:1-12

### Introduction

- Wrapping up our “In the Wilderness” focus, we see the peaceful transfer of power from Moses to Joshua. At the banks of the Jordan River, with the Promised Land on the other side, God doesn't allow Moses to cross over. After all Moses had been through, it was pretty tough to take. Yet God had a plan for the people to move forward. Moses was a necessary loss for them to do so.

### Questions for Personal and Group Study

1. Moses led the people from Egypt, through years of wandering in the wilderness, only to be denied the chance to go into the land God had promised to his people. What emotions do you think Moses would have, standing on the bank of the Jordan River? What had Moses given up or lost in service to God?
2. What losses have you experienced recently? Relationships? Health? Jobs? Freedom? What emotions do you feel in those losses? What about people you know who have experienced loss? How have they changed, good or bad?
3. In order to gain something, it is often necessary to lose something. A first-year eagle will grow to the size of an adult very quickly, but it won't leave the nest. It takes a parent eagle to literally push them out of the nest. As the young eagle falls, wings spread wide, and begin to flap. The eagle soars. That's what eagles are meant to do. What is the necessary loss illustrated here? What is gained? How does this apply to your experiences?
4. In Covid times, what have you lost? What have you gained? Was it necessary to lose something in order to gain something else?
5. We resist losses. We cling to things and people, unwilling to let them go. Is this healthy? How can clinging hurt you? How does resisting change prevent you from growing in faith? What might you need to lose in order to gain or grow?
6. Jesus taught that the Kingdom of God was one of paradox. He said, “To keep your life, you must lose it.” How does that make sense to you? When he died on the cross, what was lost? What was gained? Read Jeremiah 29:11-14. Does this shed light on what is yet to be gained for you?

### Prayer

Jesus—May I loosen my grip on things that hold me back. Help me stop my clinging. In faith, I trust that what you have in store for me is good. I trust you. Amen