Pastor Glen Berteau
"The In-Between"

There's that small print that God doesn't always tell you: the details of the in-between. Hold onto the truth and stay faithful!

[Deuteronomy 6.18-23, ESV]

And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord, that it may go well with you, and that you may go in and take possession of the good land that the Lord swore to give to your fathers by thrusting out all your enemies from before you, as the Lord has promised. “When your son asks you in time to come, ‘What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the Lord our God has commanded you?’ then you shall say to your son, ‘We were Pharaoh’s slaves in Egypt. And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. And the Lord showed signs and wonders, great and grievous, against Egypt and against Pharaoh and all his household, before our eyes. And he brought us out from there, that he might bring us in and give us the land that he swore to give to our fathers.'
It's amazing how people will die in the in-between; many people will start, but some will not finish.

[1 Corinthians 3.13-15, NKJV]

...each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

Your work will be tested to receive a reward (what I did in the in-between). There are crowns given to those who overcome.

[Philippians 4.1, NLT]

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stay true to the Lord. I love you and long to see you, dear friends, for you are my joy and the crown I receive for my work.

[2 Timothy 4.8, NLT]

And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.

When you attempt to conquer something, you open yourself up to new battles, but the reward comes after the risk.

[James 1.12, NLT]

God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.
[Revelation 3.11, NKJV]

*Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.*

_The devil wants to steal my reward, the things of eternal value._

[Revelation 4.4, NKJV]

*Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads._

[Revelation 4.10, NKJV]

...the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying...

_We get our crowns to give our crowns back to Him._

[Revelation 17.14, NKJV]

*These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful._

_In order to earn a crown, you have to conquer something._

[Revelation 19.12, NKJV]

*His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself._
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who are some Bible figures whose stories showed God giving them the beginning and telling them about the end, but so many details about the in-between were left out? Discuss a few of those stories.

2. When was a time that you struggled with what God was not saying to you? What was your prayer life like?

3. What are some eternally-significant things or storms that you have weathered that you have done, for which you think you will earn a heavenly crown? (crown of perseverance, righteousness, prayer, healing, etc.)

4. Why do you think there will be some that make it to heaven, but that will not have a crown to offer The Lord of Lords and King of Kings?

5. How will our crowns, laid upon Jesus' head, be used to overcome the enemy in the end?

6. Pray for one another to endure, overcome, and stand firm in the abundant grace of God over spei