Our Brains Work Best in Community: Describe Whatever Comes Into Your Awareness

(Practice Exercise to Follow Video Training Segment #3)
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A. Upgrade another non-God positive memory: For this exercise, the recipient starts with another non-God positive memory and gets more practice with upgrading to an Immanuel memory. Also, upgrading non-God positive memories is an especially helpful tool for getting splinter-free positive memories that are necessary for the Immanuel Approach safety net.

Examples of non-God positive memories:

- Holding one of your children as a newborn baby
- Some other particularly beautiful experience with one of your children
- A favorite family Christmas memory
- Playing with a favorite pet
- An especially positive time with friends
- Some beautiful nature experience (visit National Parks to collect these!)
- Thoroughly enjoying your favorite meal/dish/food.
- **B.** Confidentiality: Others on your practice team will share personal details, and will have personal, poignant, vulnerable experiences in the context of their Immanuel encounters. It is very important that you not share any of their details without their permission. If there are details you find especially meaningful and would like to be able to share with others, *please ask the recipient's permission*.

C. Practical considerations for breaking into practice teams:

- When plenty of time is available, the ideal number for practice teams is three. A team of three provides a facilitator, a recipient, and an observer/intercessor/assistant, and it will protect against inappropriate pair bonding.
- It's okay to work in teams of two if you are not at risk for inappropriate pair bonding. (For example, you are here with your spouse, or your grandmother, or a sibling, or some other arrangement with no risk of inappropriate pair bonding). When they are appropriate, teams of two are especially efficient with respect to time.
- **D. Short term and unconscious priming memory:** I strongly encourage taking 3 minutes to read through the facilitator instructions immediately prior to going through the exercise. This takes advantage of short term memory and unconscious priming memory, and will help the instructions feel more familiar and comfortable as you are actually using them.

Facilitator instructions (~12 min for each recipient):

1) Positive memory and appreciation:

- Help the recipient find a non-God positive memory: Encourage the recipient to find a new positive memory that can be upgraded to an Immanuel positive memory. If the recipient is having trouble finding a positive memory, ask questions from the list of non-God positive memory examples (above) to help them.
- Coach the recipient to connect with the positive memory: Help the recipient to connect with their positive memory. Sample coaching: "Now I would like you to close your eyes, imagine yourself being back inside of the original experience, and describe the memory in as much detail as possible. For example:

What did you see? Hear? Smell? Taste? Feel on your skin? What thoughts and emotions were you having at the time? What thoughts and emotions come as you think about it now? How does your body feel?"

If the recipient gives a sparse description and does not reconnect with the memory, gently prompt them to fill in more details until they connect with the memory and feel appreciation.

2) Interactive connection invitation and request:

*Non-God positive memory: The recipient has their eyes closed, they're imagining themself inside the memory, and they're feeling appreciation. Now coach the recipient to invite Jesus into the positive memory. Sample coaching: "Okay, now I want you to pray something like, 'Jesus, I know, in faith, that you were with me when I was (name memory – e.g., "enjoying that pizza"). I welcome You to be with me now, in this memory. Help me to perceive Your living, interactive presence.'

And then describe everything that comes into your awareness, regardless of whether it feels important, makes sense, or is neatly packaged. Describe any perception of Jesus' presence, and any interactions with Jesus, *in detail*."

After the recipient describes their perception of Jesus' presence and any spontaneous interactions, coach them to focus on Jesus and ask how Jesus feels about being with them. And, **as always**, coach them to observe and describe whatever comes into their awareness. <u>Sample coaching</u>: "Okay, now I would like you to focus on Jesus and ask him, 'Lord, how do you feel about being with me?' and then describe everything that comes into your awareness, regardless of whether it feels important, makes sense, or is neatly packaged."

If there is extra time: Coach the recipient to ask, "Is there anything else you want to show me, give me, or say to me, Lord?" And then, again, coach them to observe and describe whatever comes into their awareness.

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3) **Troubleshooting:** If the recipient does not perceive the Lord's interactive presence, coach them to ask the Lord for guidance regarding blockages. Sample coaching: "In faith we know that Jesus is in the memory with you, even though you can't perceive him. So I would like you to ask the Lord, 'What's in the way of my being able to perceive your presence, Lord?' and then notice and describe whatever comes into your awareness, regardless of whether it feels important, makes sense, or is neatly packaged."

After the recipient describes whatever comes into their awareness, coach them to ask for guidance regarding the next step. Sample coaching: "Now ask the Lord, 'How can I cooperate with your plan to resolve the blockage?" and then notice and describe whatever comes into your awareness."