

GRANGER SMITH

LIKE A

Finding the Faith
and Strength
to Move Forward
after Loss
and Heartache

RIVER

A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

Like a River

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INFANT SWIM RESCUE GUIDE

WATER SAFETY

- National Drowning Prevention Alliance (www.ndpa.org)
- CAST Water Safety Foundation (www.castwatersafety.org/printables-library)
- Sea Star’s “Important Keys to Water Safety” (www.seastarlr.com/water-safety)
- Levi’s Legacy (www.levislegacy.com)
- The LV Project (www.thelvproject.org)
- The Syllas Project’s “Water Safety Tips & Checklist” (www.thesyllasproject.org/water-safety)
- Self-rescue tips from CAST (www.castwatersafety.org/what-is-self-rescue)

SURVIVAL SWIM

- Infant Swimming Resources (www.infantswim.com)
- Infant Aquatics (www.infantaquatics.com)

PERSONAL REFLECTION AND GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Granger uses the metaphor of a rushing river to express the nature of life. How is your life like a river? How do you navigate it?
2. What coping mechanisms do you use to get through hard times? How effective are they when you come to new challenges or unexpected twists?
3. What life-changing losses have you experienced? What losses and griefs have you known that others might label as less significant? How do you grieve all of these things in similar ways?
4. What aspects of your life have you felt the need to control? Imagine surrendering those areas to God. What would that look like practically?
5. What are the limits of your own ability to help yourself out of dark experiences? What role does God play in these times?
6. What makes surrender difficult? What beliefs or fears stand in your way?
7. How do you see that God is using your suffering for a purpose? What do you believe about that notion?

8. What does it mean to you to have integrity through the darkest seasons of your life?
9. Granger says that grief and joy—not happiness, but a deep inner peace—can coexist. If you have ever experienced this, what made that happen for you? How would you describe it to someone who hasn't experienced it?
10. Jesus said, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word." Granger realized after hearing this that he had never fully read the Bible. He soon experienced significant healing when he began reading the Bible daily. What would this kind of routine look like in your life?
11. Granger writes: "If you learn anything from this book, let it be this: ditch your oars and burn the boat. No matter how much mental strength and endurance you think you have, when you meet the waterfall that eventually comes to us all, oars and a boat won't help you. The only thing you'll be able to trust is God and His Word, the Bible." What might it mean for you to ditch your "oars" and burn your "boat"?



ME AND DAD. I STILL LEARN FROM HIM EVEN AFTER HE'S GONE.



ONE OF THE FEW PICTURES OF LONDON WITH DAD. SHE WAS TWO AND HALF YEARS OLD WHEN HE PASSED IN 2014.



RIVER CUDDLED IN MY LAP BEFORE WE FILMED THE "HAPPENS LIKE THAT" MUSIC VIDEO. HE LOVED TO HEAR ME PLAY AND SING!



LONDON AND RIVER PICKING FLOWERS FOR MAMA.



**LOTS OF SMILES ON A FAMILY
HIKING TRIP IN EARLY 2019.**



**LINCOLN AND RIVER WATCHING
AN EXCAVATOR ON THE SIDE
OF THE ROAD. THAT WAS
RIVER'S FAVORITE TRACTOR.**



**LINCOLN AND RIVER WERE BEST
BUDS. THIS WAS ABOUT TWO
MONTHS BEFORE WE LOST HIM.**



**RIVER LOVED HIS TOY TRACTOR
WITH A SUPERSIZED BATTERY!**

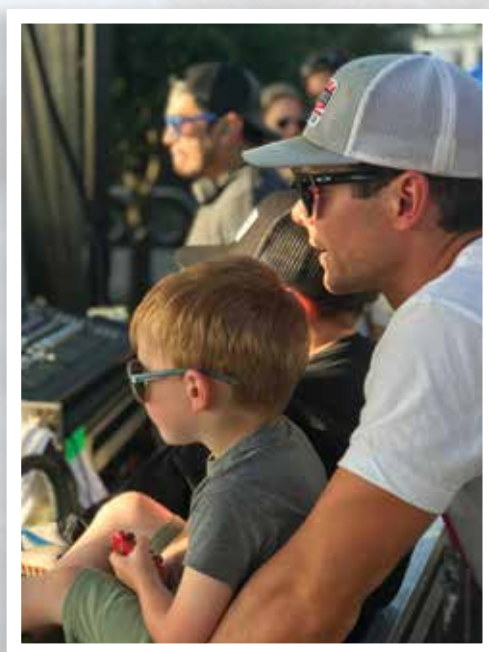


**WE LOVED RIDING AROUND
THE WOODS ON WHAT WE
THOUGHT WAS OUR FOREVER
HOME PROPERTY.**

**RIVER, LINCOLN, AND LONDON. I
TOOK THIS PIC OF THEM CHEESIN'.**



ME, RIVER, AND HIS WILD RED HAIR.



**RIVER WATCHING THE OPENING BAND
WITH ME BEFORE MY CONCERT. WE
LOST HIM THAT NEXT WEEK.**



THE NURSES PUT RIVER'S FAVORITE TOY IN HIS HAND. AMBER AND I TOOK THIS PICTURE MOMENTS BEFORE THEY WHEELED HIM AWAY.

RIVER'S FORGOTTEN TOYS IN THE BACKYARD. I TOOK THIS PICTURE KNOWING THAT HE WAS THE LAST ONE TO HAVE TOUCHED THEM.



THE PRE-SHOW BACKSTAGE MOMENTS AFTER WE LOST RIV WERE BRUTAL.



I THOUGHT GOING BACK ON THE ROAD WOULD HELP—BUT I WAS JUST GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS AND PROLONGING MY HEALING.



THE FAMILY OF FOUR. AMBER AND I WERE FRESH OUT OF THERAPY IN NOVEMBER 2019. PUSHING FORWARD.



AMBER TRAVELED WITH ME AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. THIS WAS PRE-SHOW VALENTINE'S DAY 2020.



MY LITTLE ROOM IN THE BACK OF MY BUS, WILDFLOWER.



LIFE IN THE RV PARKED IN THE BARN! THE CHRISTMAS TREE LOOKED GREAT IN THERE.



THE *TODAY SHOW* SET UP IN OUR LIVING ROOM OF OUR "IN BETWEEN HOME" TO TALK TO US FOR THE FIRST TIME PUBLICLY ABOUT LOSING RIV. IT WAS MARCH 2020.



I SNAPPED THIS PIC OF THE FAMILY CHECKING OUT THE NEW LITTLE FARM FOR THE FIRST TIME. THEY ARE STANDING WHERE OUR HOUSE NOW SITS.



WHILE WE WERE BUILDING A HOUSE ON OUR NEW LAND, AN ICE STORM DEVASTATED MANY OF OUR OLD TREES. THAT TAUGHT ME A BIG LESSON ON LOVING THINGS OF THIS WORLD.



MY FIRST TIME PREACHING
AT A CHURCH WAS
IN AUGUST OF 2021.
THE STAGE WASN'T
NEW FOR ME, BUT
MY MESSAGE WAS.

WE'RE PREGNANT! THIS WAS OUR
BABY MAVERICK ANNOUNCEMENT.

THE BIBLE THAT TRANSFORMED MY LIFE,
WHICH I READ SO OFTEN SITTING IN THAT
CHAIR IN THE
BARN AFTER
MY REBIRTH.



EARLY MORNING COFFEE
AND BIBLE STUDY IN THE
BARN. I BEGAN A ROUTINE
BACK THEN THAT I STILL
DO TODAY. I HAVEN'T
SKIPPED A SINGLE
MORNING SINCE 2020.



**AMBER MEETS MAVERICK
FOR THE FIRST TIME.**



**THERE WERE SOME PRETTY
INTENSE EMOTIONS HOLDING
MAV ON HIS BIRTHDAY. RIVER
TATTOO ON MY ARM.**



**BABY MAV GETTING ALL THE
ATTENTION IN THE HOUSE.**



**LONDON AND LINCOLN ARE
CAPTIVATED BY THEIR
LITTLE BROTHER MAV.**