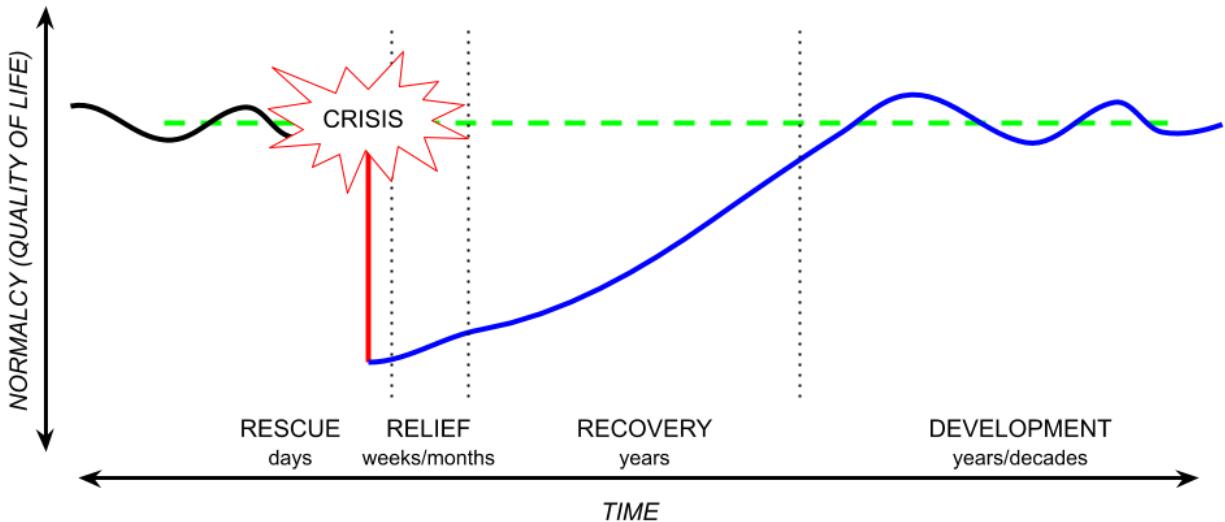
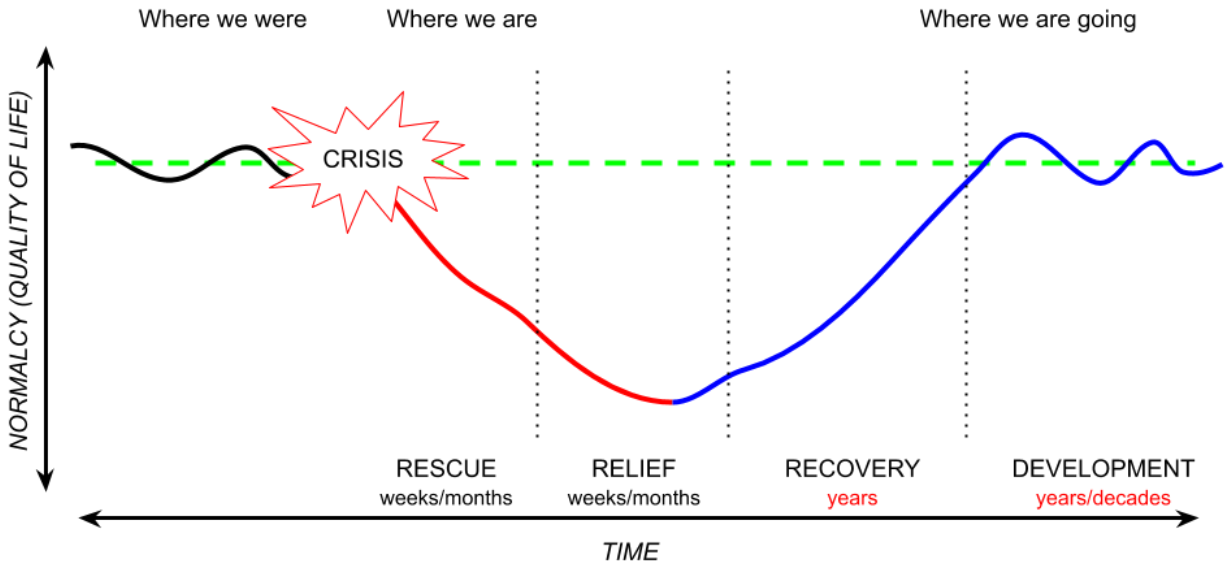


## April 19 - Lesson One: Orientation

This is a one way of visualizing a typical disaster recovery timeline.



This might be what our current situation looks like (not to scale).



So, we are probably on the downward slope of a situation that could get worse before it gets better. The good news is that there are some predictable things about this, and there are some constructive steps we can take as we navigate this. The even better news is that we have an amazing God, a great faith community, and a rich legacy of faith that provide support.

Where we've been: We might view our current situation as a sort of desert to cross, or maybe roaring waters. God is a God who brings life, order, and beauty out of chaos (Gen. 1).

The people of faith have had to cross through deserts and roaring waters before. When they did, God led them through, and he was with them on the way.

Where we are now: Just as God tabernacled with the people beneath the pillar of smoke and fire, Jesus tabernacled with us. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. He promised to be with us to the end of the age. And he promised to send his Spirit to comfort and to guide us. So where are we now? In God's presence.

Where are we headed? Near the end of the Book of Revelation, John has a vision in which the sea is no more — the chaotic abyss over which God's spirit hovered in Genesis one, is done away with completely. And God himself makes his dwelling place among humanity. That is where we are headed — to a place without plagues, economic collapse, or isolation.

- Scriptures to Consider (suggestions)
  - Genesis 1
  - Joseph cycle (famine)
  - Exodus and Moses
  - Joshua 3
  - John 1:14ff
  - John 14:15-31
  - Matthew 28:20
  - Revelation 21:1-5
  
- Questions to Discuss
  - What about our current situation causes you fear?
  - What have been the points of serendipity — of unexpected blessing — in the current situation?
  - What aspects of our overarching faith story do you find encouraging? Why?