

# The Power of **Positive** Thinking

## Week 3: Peaks and Valleys

**Peaks** are moments when you appreciate what you have.  
**Valleys** are moments when you long for what is missing.

Like a healthy heartbeat ...



your personal peaks and valleys are an **essential** part of a normal, healthy life.

“Peaks and Valleys are **not just the good and bad times** that happen to you. They are also **how you feel inside and response to outside events.**”

(Johnson, p. 44)

### **Peaks and Valleys are CONNECTED**

The errors you make in today's good times create tomorrow's bad times. And the wise things you do in today's bad times create tomorrow's good times. Valuable lessons can be learned in the Valley!

When using a Peaks and Valleys approach during bad times, things get a lot easier when you see the bigger picture and concentrate on what matters most (Johnson, 2009).



### **The Value in Valleys**

- The pain in a valley can wake you up to a *truth* you have been ignoring.
- How you *manage* your valley determines how soon you reach your next peak.
- If you do not learn in a valley, you can become bitter. If you *learn something valuable*, you can become better.
- Getting out of a valley occurs when you choose to *see things differently*.

“The most common reason people leave a peak too soon is **arrogance, disguised as confidence**. The most common reason people stay in a valley too long is **fear, disguised as comfort**.” (Johnson, p.51)

**To stay on a peak longer...** be humble and grateful. Do more of what got you there. Keep making things better. Do more for others. Save resources for your upcoming valleys.

Want more help? Contact your EAP at \_\_\_\_\_

Johnson, Spencer. (2009). Peaks and valleys: *Making good and bad times work for you - At work and in life*. New York: Atria Books