

Journey CHURCH

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Leader Guide Session 3

Watch

Play the video segment for session three (see the streaming video access provided on the inside front cover). As you and your group watch, use the following outline to record any thoughts or concepts that stand out to you.

One of the biggest hurdles in NASA's quest to send a mission to the moon was the death of three astronauts on the launch pad on January 27, 1967. But it was by no means the only hurdle. When Neil and Buzz were descending to the moon, the mission was almost called off due to a 1202 program alarm.

The world can seem simple compared to the complexities of navigating our own personal turmoil. God's promise is to guide us each step of the way through this exploration, this journey to conquer inner space, as we learn to embrace the dark sides of our moon.

The Jewish leaders should have been the ones to welcome Jesus. Instead, they set up obstacles to block his mission and to trap him, often challenging him in front of the disciples and the public at large. Their spiritual blindness would ultimately lead them to plot how to put Jesus to death on the cross.

The apostle Paul experienced betrayals, beatings, shipwrecks, and things worse than anything we've faced on a daily basis. Yet he knew that God was using those trials to unlock new levels of character and trust and ability within him. The hard times – and this isn't cliché – were truly making him stronger.

On a smaller planet, the mass and the attraction of gravity is different than on a larger one. The weight of something depends on where you're standing. In the same way, standing on God's promises can impact the way that we "feel" trials. A big trial feels lighter when you are anchored in God's Word.

Astronauts have to be constantly vigilant because they know there are many different things that can go wrong in space that can be fatal. Likewise, as we follow Jesus, we have to be

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vigilant. Not only because of those kinds of trials – the hard times, the heavy times – that we face, but also because of temptation.

It's easy to go through a hard time or a time of temptation, wipe your brow, say "pew," and let your guard down. But that is when you will not be ready for the next round of attacks that are coming.

The enemy is going to place challenges in our path to following Christ. So, let's not be shaken by those things. Let's not be surprised by them. Let's be expecting them. Let's have a plan for them.

Discuss

1. How do you think the astronauts' planning and training prepared them for the obstacles they would face in the moon landing? How does this kind of planning and training translate to the Christian life?
2. Which of the hurdles the Apollo astronauts overcame stand out to you most? Why?
3. Have you ever felt "fifteen seconds" away from giving up on something important when, suddenly, everything came together? What happened to turn it around?
4. Read James 1:2-5. What are some of the benefits that you have received after going through a time of testing? How does testing develop our character?
5. The astronauts knew that they could rely on the command center back in Houston for guidance, but they still had to stay focused on their mission. What does 1 Peter 5:8 say about how we must likewise remain vigilant in our trials?
6. When we fail in our trails, God remains faithful to forgive us and redeem us. How did Jesus prove this definitively on the cross?