

Journey CHURCH

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Developing a Faith that Works Leader Guide Session 1: How to Profit from Your Problems

Four Facts of Life You Need to Know

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. James 1:2-3 NIV

1. Problems are _____.
2. Problems are _____.
3. Problems are _____.
4. Problems are _____.

Three Values of Problems

the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:3b-4 NIV

1. Problems purify my _____.
2. Problems fortify my _____.
3. Problems sanctify my _____.

God's Ultimate Purpose in my life: Building the _____ into my life.

How to Handle Your Problems

1. _____
We don't rejoice _____ the problem, but we rejoice
_____ the problem.

in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 NASB

2. _____
If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.. James 1:5 NIV

Pray for _____

3. _____

But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt James 1:6a NIV

Discussion Questions

1. When does James tell us to “*consider it pure joy*” when we encounter problems? What does James say will result from these trials in life (Verse 3-4)?
2. James urges three godly responses to problems: Rejoice, pray and relax. Which of these responses is the most difficult for you when you are facing a problem? Why?
3. Most of the time we don’t understand why problems come our way or what their purpose could be. What does James tell us to do in verse 5? Why is this good advice when we find ourselves in circumstances that don’t make sense to us?

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

4. According to this passage, what will the difficulties of life prepare you to do in service to others?
5. 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 tells us how God uses suffering in our life so that we can help others in times of trouble. What are some specific ways God has comforted you in your time of suffering? Which of these experiences has helped you comfort other in their times of need?

Problems often provide us with opportunities to purify our faith, fortify our patience, and sanctify our character. As we see God’s work in our lives, we naturally desire to share with others what God has done for us.

6. In what ways can a life that has “profited from problems” open door for sharing Christ with those around us?
7. Turn to the *Circles of Life* on page 68 in the Small Group Resources section. Use this tool to help you identify those around you who need to know Jesus. Make a plan to invite them to join you the next time this group meets. Ask the group to pray for them this week.