

He Chose the Nails Leader Guide Session 5: He Chose to Give Us Victory

Discussion Questions:

1. What part of the teaching had the most impact on you?

Receiving the Gift of Victory

2. The victory accomplished through Christ's death and resurrection is sometimes referred to as the "paschal mystery." Paschal mystery is also understood as the recurring pattern of God's transforming work in our lives: that some form of death always precedes new life – and that death never has the last word. Speaking of the life that would follow his death, Jesus said to his disciples: "I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels – a plentiful harvest of new lives" (John 12:24 NLT)
 - a. For a seed, there is life on both sides of death (planting), but each life is a very different kind. What three words or phrases would you use to describe the life of the seed before death? What three words or phrases would you use to describe the life that follows death?
 - b. What parallels do you recognize between life on either side of death for the seed and the before-and-after life human beings experience whenever we encounter some form of death (a tragedy, a personal struggle, a choice to deny ourselves, ect.)? In what ways might the same two sets of words and phrases you used for seeds also apply to the human experience on either side of a death?
3. If we think of the hardships and losses of this life as seeds, we have at least three options for what we can do with them: (1) we can cling to our seeds and refuse to sow them; (2) we can sow our seeds in God; or (3) we can sow our seeds in something other than God. In practical terms, how would you describe what it means to follow through on each option?

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- a. Of the three options, which comes closest to describing your tendency when you are in a season of hardship? Are you more likely to cling to life as it is, surrender yourself to God in faith, or try to bury yourself in distractions or self-defeating behavior?

4. If living in victory is possible even in the midst of “many trials and sorrows,” how would you describe what that victory is?

5. At the end of the video, Max suggested a simple exercise. Think for a moment about Paul’s words: “In everything God works for the good of those who love him” (Romans 8:28 NCV). Remove the word *everything* and replace it with whatever symbolize a tragedy or hardship in your life. For example, “In hospital stays God works for the good,” “In divorce papers God works for the good,” “In prison terms God works for the good.” How would you complete the sentence?

In _____ God works for the good.