

Journey CHURCH

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Session 5 Leader Guide

Key Verse

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know...they help us learn to be patient. - ROMANS 5:3 TLB

Session 5 Outline

"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." - JOHN 16:33 NIV

In everything we do we show that we are God's servants by patiently enduring troubles, hardships, and difficulties. - 2 CORINTHIANS 6:4 GNT

Paul warned them, "Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also." - ACTS 27:9-10 NIV

Three Keys to Dealing with Difficulty:

1. Determine _____

Ask: What caused this?

I tried to think this problem through, but it was too difficult for me until I went into your Temple. - PSALM 73:16-17 GNT

Three Common Mistakes:

1. We listen to _____

The centurion, instead of listening to what Paul said, followed the advice of the pilot and of the owner of the ship. - ACTS 27:11 NIV

2. We follow _____

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The majority decided that we should sail... - ACTS 27:12 NIV

3. We rely on _____

When a gentle south wind began to blow, they thought they had obtained what they wanted...- ACTS 27:13 NIV

2. Determine _____

Ask: What does God want me to learn?

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know...they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time... - ROMANS 5:3-4 TLB

Every problem has a purpose.

He doesn't want you to give up; he wants you to grow up.

3. Determine _____

Ask: How should I react?

What happens ____you is not as important as what happens ____you.

Three Wrong Responses to Difficulty:

1. Don't _____

The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along. - ACTS 27:15 NIV

2. Don't _____

They began to throw the cargo overboard. - ACTS 27:18 NIV

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Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved." So the soldiers cut the ropes that held the lifeboat and let it drift away. - ACTS 27:31-32 NIV

3. Don't _____

We finally gave up all hope of being saved. - ACTS 27:20 NIV

Three Right Responses to Difficulty:

1. _____

What are you pretending is not a problem?

A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance. - PROVERBS 28:13 TLB

2. _____

The only way to face a storm is head-on. Face the storm. Don't fear it.

3. _____

Everything was falling apart in the storm except Paul. Why? Because Paul's confidence was in God, not in the ship.

"Keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me." - ACTS 27:25 NIV

You may be going through a storm right now, and your ship may not make it. But you will make it.

You may have to get to shore on a broken piece of the ship, but you will not be lost, because God is with you. Don't give up.

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Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Rick said, "Every problem has a purpose, and the purpose is to teach you a lesson. What happens to you is not as important as what happens in you." What do you think God is trying to teach you through the difficulties you are facing right now, and how does he want you to respond?
2. When did you run from a difficult situation? When did you stay in a difficult situation? How did your response in each situation shape your character?
3. What outcome from your difficulty do you believe will bring the most glory to God?
4. What kind of trouble have you encountered because of a mistake you made in responding to a difficulty? How did God deliver you in that situation?

Prayer Direction

If you are in the difficulty phase of faith, call on the Lord as your Shield (see Psalm 28:7). Ask him to give you strength and courage and to protect you from Satan. Pray for anyone in your group who is going through a storm right now.

Putting It into Practice

Take a few minutes this week to review each step in the outline from Pastor Rick's lesson, and ask yourself, "How does this step apply to the difficulty I'm facing?"

Don't start drifting through life. Don't throw away those values and relationships that you know are important. Don't throw away your relationship with God, or going to church, or being a part of your small group, or reading your Bible. Don't drift. Don't discard. Don't despair. Instead, turn to God and never give up hope.