



Tough Times

Facilitator Note: We encourage facilitators to take this Bible study and expound on it throughout the week, allowing it to be a springboard for deeper conversation and personal meditation.

PRESS START

Superhero stories often kick off with a tough test - think Bruce Wayne seeing his parents killed or Peter Parker losing his uncle. These heroes, despite their super strength, have been through some really tough times before they came out on top.

Ask: What's a recent situation you experienced where things didn't turn out the way you expected? Were you disappointed or pleasantly surprised?

EQUIP

When you go through hardships in life, it's hard to have a perspective of gratitude. We see the negative and tend to focus only on the gaping issue at hand, but fail to take a step back and look at what this could potentially be doing for your overall life. Sometimes, a loss of a job might seem like a major blow, but after time in the Word, prayer, and speaking to friends, you might see that losing that job might have been for the betterment of your well-being, thus making you glad you went through this time of trouble.

Ask: How can someone be glad when they are going through a time of testing?

LEVEL UP

Read: 1 Peter 1:6-7 (CSB)

You rejoice in this, even though now for a short time, if necessary, you suffer grief in various trials so that the proven character of your faith—more valuable than gold which, though perishable, is refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

MOD

In this week's passage, the Apostle Peter is speaking to fellow Christians who are "exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia" (1 Peter 1:1). These Christians were living in a place controlled by the Roman government, which at the time of Peter writing this letter, was extremely cruel to Christians. 1 Peter is a powerful reminder of Christian hope amid suffering and hardship.

Ask: Is rejoicing in trials an unrealistic expectation? If not, what would it look like in our lives?

Ask: What prevents us from being joyful in trials?

Ask: In what ways has a trial strengthened your faith?

PRAY

Pray: Lord Jesus, thank you that your ways are not my ways. Help me see you and your goodness through my difficult times and that you are glorified through me as I walk in faith to what you have called me to do.

NEXT LEVEL

Read: Job 1:20-22 and reflect on how Job had everything taken from him but still worshiped the Lord despite his circumstances.

20 Then Job stood up, tore his robe, and shaved his head. He fell to the ground and worshiped, 21 saying: Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will leave this life. The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord. 22 Throughout all this Job did not sin or blame God for anything.

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