

Week Three: October 31st, 2021

Theme: **GOD CAN USE CHANGE TO MAKE YOU STRONGER**

Scripture Reference: James 1:2-4

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Discussion Questions:

- 1. What problems and trials did you face during the pandemic or are currently facing right now?**
 - Because this is a personal question, feel free to share first to help the students understand that this is a safe place to share. Encourage students to answer the question but do not force them to answer. The purpose of this question is to help walk them through the Stages of Endurance. (Problems and trials, endurance, character, and hope)
- 2. What is your initial response to tests, trouble, and problems?**
 - The Bible tells us to consider it an opportunity for great joy when we face troubles of any kind. Help the students compare and contrast their response to trouble to the response the Bible instructs us to have.
- 3. Why is it so hard to endure when you don't see the results you're looking for?**
 - As we know, many of us want things in our lives to move and change quickly. So, what do we do when things move slower than we imagined? Help the students think about how patient or impatient they are during the stage of endurance. Try to pull out examples from them that they can expound on.
- 4. When you get to the third Stage of Endurance (character), why is it important to keep enduring? What can happen if you stop there?**
 - When we reach the third stage (character), it "looks" like we've made it. We start to see the results and the proof of our endurance. However, when we stop there, our progress can gradually decline. Challenge the students to think through why it is important for them to keep on going and to not stop.
- 5. In today's society, why do we need hope?**
 - As a reminder, the acronym for HOPE is "holding onto positive expectations". Remind them of this if they do not remember. When we experience change, trials, and tribulations, sometimes fear is produced. Try to get the students to expound on why we need hope and how fear can easily prevent us from experiencing hope.
- 6. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. Other than producing endurance, character, and hope, what else does trouble produce?**
 - The answer to this question is "a glory that vastly outweighs our troubles and lasts forever." Help the students understand that God uses the changes we go through to make us stronger and so that He can get the glory.

Bonus Material

Navigating Constant Change: <https://www.bible.com/en/reading-plans/4302>

I Know it, Even When I Don't Feel It // Stronger (Mike Todd):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3soKNMfimw>