

Stuart Briscoe – How to Deal with Adversity

When adversity comes we often ask ourselves, why me? Why do bad things happen to good people? Stuart explores these questions by taking us to 1 Peter 1:1-7.

Discussion Questions:

1. Stuart reminds us that there is a cause and effect in life. Frequently the cause is our misadventures which result in the adversity. It is too easy to blame God rather than ourselves. Share with others an example in your own life in which this cause and effect is evident.
2. Adversity is also a reflection of a fallen world. Things happen that are out of our control. Stuart reminds us that God is not the originator of these things but can use them to strengthen our faith. Verse 7 speaks of the persecution experienced by the Christians in the Roman empire, which served to prove the genuineness of their faith. Can you identify with this in your own life? Share with your group an experience in which you have seen your faith strengthened.
3. The other side of the picture is a situation in which adversity did not strengthen your faith. If this has happened to you, also share this experience with the men of your group so that they can help you work through it.
4. Stuart reminds us that there is a spiritual adversary who is like a roaring lion looking for whom he may destroy. It is one thing to ask the 'why' question when the adversity comes -- a normal response to the situation. It becomes a problem when you withdraw from God because of it. When adversity comes, who is whispering in your ear that God does not care?
5. In addition to asking the question "Why do bad things happen to good people?" We also need to ask, "Why do good people do bad things which causes much of the adversity for others?" What are your thoughts about this?