

DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES

DISCUSSION GUIDES

EVERY MONDAY

Discussion Guide

Sunday Sermon 9.6.26



The Riches of Grace

Part 4: New Perspective on Adversity

This guide is designed to help your family or group take what was taught on Sunday and move from simply hearing the information to applying it in ways that build up and encourage one another. Feel free to adjust the depth and number of questions based on your time and the size of your group.

Access the Sermon on the Website & App:

[Click Here](#)



OVERVIEW

This guide is designed to help your group move beyond simply hearing the truths of Romans 5 and begin living them out. The sermon challenged us to see adversity not as something to run from, fix, or be consumed by, but as a gift God uses to produce perseverance, character, and hope in the lives of his children.

KEY VERSE

Romans 5:3-4 -- Paul teaches that tribulation produces perseverance, perseverance produces character, and character produces hope -- a chain reaction God initiates in the lives of his children through difficulty.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Being justified by faith does not remove believers from suffering. It changes how we see and respond to it.
 - Our standing before God does not change based on our circumstances, feelings, or performance.
 - Tribulation is not pointless. It is not working against you -- it is working for you.
 - God uses adversity to produce three specific things in his children: perseverance, character, and hope.
 - The refiner does not put gold in the fire to destroy it. He puts it in the fire to reveal his reflection in it.
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OPENING QUESTION

Take a few minutes before diving into the content to simply check in with one another.

- On a scale of one to ten, how would you honestly rate your ability to rejoice in difficulty right now? Why?
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Getting into the Text

1. Read Romans 5:1-11 together as a group. What stands out to you most from this passage, and why?
2. The sermon pointed out that Paul's mention of tribulation in the middle of a passage about justification and peace seems almost out of place. Why do you think Paul connects suffering so closely to the benefits of being justified by faith?
3. The word tribulation in the original Greek carries the meaning of pressure, squeezing, and crushing -- referring to external hardship that closes in on a person. How does understanding that definition change the way you read this passage?

Going Deeper

4. The sermon stated that our circumstances do not determine our standing before God. How does that truth practically change the way a believer should respond when life gets hard?
5. Perseverance was described as single-mindedness -- the ability to remain under pressure without giving up. Can you think of a time when going through something difficult actually helped you focus on what truly mattered? What did that experience produce in you?
6. Character was described as testedness -- a quality of confidence that only comes from having been through something. Why do you think comfort cannot produce the same result that difficulty can?
7. The sermon described biblical hope not as a 50-50 chance but as absolute certainty rooted in the faithfulness and sovereignty of God. How does that definition of hope change the way you approach an uncertain situation in your life right now?
8. The refiner's fire illustration describes a process that is repeated again and again until the refiner can see his own reflection in the metal. What does it mean to you personally that God's goal through your trials is to make you more like Jesus?

Getting Honest

9. The sermon identified three common responses to adversity: running from it, getting consumed by it, and trying to fix it as quickly as possible. Which of these do you most

naturally default to? Why?

10. The sermon challenged the group with this statement: "Don't you dare let the devil rob you of what God wants to do through this moment in your life." Is there a current trial in your life where you feel like you may be missing what God is trying to produce? What would it look like to embrace it instead?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

The following are specific, actionable steps your group members can take this week.

Individually

- Identify one current difficulty in your life. Write down what perseverance, character, and hope might look like if you chose to embrace it rather than run from it, get consumed by it, or try to fix it on your own.
- Spend time this week reading through the passages referenced in the sermon -- Romans 5, James 1, 1 Peter 1, and 2 Timothy 3 -- and note every time God addresses suffering and what he says about it.
- Listen to yourself pray this week. Pay attention to how much of your prayer is asking God to make life more comfortable versus asking him to produce something lasting in you through what you are facing.

As a Group

- Share one trial you are currently walking through and ask the group to pray specifically that God would produce perseverance, character, and hope in you through it -- rather than simply praying for the trial to end.
 - Identify someone in your life -- a neighbor, coworker, or family member -- who is suffering without the hope that comes from knowing Christ. Commit to praying for them by name this week and ask God for an opportunity to point them toward the only source of true and certain hope.
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CLOSING THOUGHT

The sermon closed with this challenge: humbly rest in the sovereign purpose of God to use tribulation -- no matter how big or small -- to produce something beautiful in your life. That is not a passive posture. It requires faith, surrender, and a willingness to trust that the One who justified you by faith is also the One who is faithfully at work in every hard moment of your life.

CLOSING PRAYER

Close your time together by praying specifically over the trials each group member shared. Ask God to give your group the grace to stop running, stop being consumed, and stop trying to fix -- and instead to embrace the refining work he is doing. Ask him to make your lives a clear reflection of Jesus to a world that is desperate for real hope.