

DISCUSSION GUIDE

GROWING IN ENDURANCE
Make Every Effort — Week 9

ICEBREAKER: If you are at the zoo, what animal do you enjoy watching most and why?

OVERVIEW: Trials are a fact of life. You will experience hard times, no matter how devoted you are to God. When it comes to sickness, injury, pain, heart-break, failure, loneliness, persecution, death — no one is immune. So how does God want us to respond to adversity? With endurance. Endurance is the Christian response to the difficulties in life. But what is endurance, and how do we cultivate it? In this discussion we are focusing on what we need to do to grow in the virtue of endurance.

1. Read 2 Peter 1:5-7. What insight, principle, or observation from this week-end's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. What is endurance?
3. What is the wrong response to adversity?
4. Have you ever responded to adversity in a wrong way? Explain.
5. How would you like to respond to hard times?

6. One of the ways we need to endure is to remain in the faith despite adversity. How can you make sure that you don't turn away from God during times of adversity?
7. Another way we need to endure is to remain Christ-like despite adversity. What would it look like to remain Christ-like in the midst of trials?
8. We also need endurance to remain faithful in marriage. What can you do to make sure that your marriage goes the distance?
9. Adversity is also needed to remain on mission despite adversity. What is your ministry, and how can you make sure that you don't give up?
10. We need endurance to remain in pursuit of our God-given goals. What are some of your goals, and how can you make sure that you stick with them and don't give up?
11. One of the ways to cultivate endurance is to learn what the Bible says about adversity. What are some of the most important Biblical truths about adversity?
12. What else can you do to cultivate the virtue of endurance so that you are ready for the next trial that comes your way?

The Last Word: "If they knock your teeth out, gum 'em to death!"