

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WHAT IS OUR COMFORT IN ADVERSITY?

The Gospel of John — Week 29

ICEBREAKER: If you just found out you had only two weeks to live, what top two or three things would you do? Why?

OVERVIEW: Suffering and sorrow are a fact of life. Whether you are a Christian or an unbeliever, have great faith or very little faith, live a godly life or a sinful life, you will experience a lot of adversity in your lifetime. But as Christians, we have a reason to take comfort and have confidence in the midst of trials – the sovereignty of God. In this study we will go deeper with how to face adversity as a Christian.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’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. Are you facing some form of hardship in your life right now, whether physical, emotional, spiritual, relational, financial, etc.? Explain.
3. Some believe that if you are godly and have great faith, you should be immune from the problems of life? How can the Bible be taken out of context to support this view? How do we know that this view is wrong, and that Christians can expect hardships in life?
4. Read John 7:30. How does this verse illustrate the sovereignty of God? What is the sovereignty of God?

5. Read Ephesians 1:11. God is described as “the one who works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will.” What does God control? Does this verse comfort you or alarm you? Explain.
6. Read Daniel 5:23. If God is in control of everything, does He cause evil? Explain.
7. Read Proverbs 16:9. If God determines our steps, then why does He allow us to step into suffering?
8. In light of God’s sovereignty, how should Christians respond to adversity?

The Last Word: “God is love and God is sovereign. His love disposes him to desire our everlasting welfare, and his sovereignty enables him to secure it.” A. W. Tozer