

DISCUSSION GUIDE

HOW TO HANDLE ADVERSITY LIKE JESUS

Romans 12:12

Be Transformed—Week 7

ICEBREAKER: What drives you crazy?

OVERVIEW: One of the challenges of the Christian life is that even after you become a Christian you still have problems. You might assume that now that you are on God's team, He will protect you from trials, but that doesn't happen. Even though they follow Jesus, Christians still face sickness, failure, conflict with others, layoffs, financial troubles, you name it. In this discussion we will go deeper with how Christians can respond to adversity in a Christlike and God-honoring way.

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. Why are Christians sometimes surprised when they have problems?
3. What's one of the toughest problems you ever faced?
4. Have you ever responded to a problem in a way that was not Christlike? Explain.
5. Read Hebrews 12:7-13 and answer the following questions.
 - a. What does it mean to endure suffering as discipline?
 - b. What might it mean if you are not having problems (see v. 8)?
 - c. Why does God discipline us with suffering (see v. 10)?
 - d. In light of the truths laid out in vs. 7-11, vs. 12-13 tell us how to respond to adversity. Explain vs. 12-13 in your own words.

6. Read Romans 12:12 and refer to Sunday's sermon for the following questions. The sermon described three directives for dealing with difficulties. What are they? (Hint: See Romans 12:12.)
7. What does it mean to rejoice? What is the Christian's hope?
8. What does it mean to rejoice in hope when facing difficulties?
9. Does the command to "rejoice in hope" mean that Christians are never to express emotions of sadness? Explain.
10. Romans 12:12 also says to be patient in affliction. What does it mean to be patient in affliction? What are examples of the opposite of patience in affliction?
11. How can we develop this patient endurance?
12. Romans 12:12 says to be persistent in prayer. What does it mean to be persistent in prayer?
13. How does prayer help in times of affliction?

The Last Word: "Some have comfort and no affliction, and others have affliction and no comfort, but the saints have comfort in their affliction." Charles Spurgeon

