

OVERCOMING TRIALS

For the week of May 25, 2020

James 1:2-12

Full message available at highpoint.church/currentseries

Goal:

To overcome trials as we look to, learn from, and lean on Jesus.

GET GOING:

- The “get out of jail free” card in the game of Monopoly represents a free opportunity to get out of a challenge during the game. Looking back, what is one trial or challenge in your life for which you wish you had a “get out of jail free card.” Are there any trials in your life that you are thankful to not have received a “get out of jail free” card?
- On a scale of 1 (comes easiest) to 5 (needs the most work), rank the following truths from this weekend’s message:
 - a. I joyfully see trials as a way to test my internal fortitude and an opportunity to strengthen my perseverance (James 1:3)
 - b. I joyfully allow trials to teach me the lesson God has for me (James 1:4)
 - c. I joyfully depend on God and not myself in the midst of trials (James 1:5-8)
 - d. I joyfully see my trials as an opportunity to be blessed and not stressed (James 1:12)
- When it comes to trials, which biblical character comes to mind? Why? What “key” to overcoming trials did they utilize that you might replicate?
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GET GROWING

- Read John 9:1-12. Think through each character in the story: disciples, blind man, blind man's parents, people at the pool, those who knew the blind man (and are a part of this story), and those who do not know the blind man personally, but heard the story secondhand from another eyewitness (e.g. neighbor, people at the pool): What life change or life lessons did the blind man, those who knew him, or heard about him receive?
- If the blindman had another encounter with Jesus, what question(s) do you think he would ask Jesus about his blindness? What question do you think Jesus would ask the blind man?
- "The idea that as a Christian God promises a pain-free life is not only heretical but detrimental." Read 2 Corinthians 7b-12. How have you personally experienced God using a trial to show you God's strength (in the passage strength literally means, ability) and allowing you to boast in your weakness?
- Read Romans 5:3-5. Who is someone that you know that suffers well? What do you admire most about him or her?
- What is one new tip or tool you want to utilize to overcome trial in light of this study?

Bonus Challenge

As the goal of this week is to overcome trials as we look to, learn from, and lean on Jesus, think about your most recent trial. Reflect and journal about how God used that trial to help you:

- look to Jesus (redirect your attention back to Him)
- learn from Jesus (learning a new characteristic about yourself that you needed to surrender/be refined in or a new characteristic about God you needed to learn)
- lean on Jesus (depend on God in a new way)

Memory Verse

"Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (Rom. 5:3-5).

