



WEEK MAY 30–JUNE 5

MAIN IDEA

Rejoice when you face trials because God is developing your character.

CHECK IN (HIGHS & LOWS) 15 min

A great, quick way to catch the highlights of what is happening in the lives of the people in your group is to take turns quickly sharing the “highs & lows” of your week. High: What was the highlight of your week? Low: What was the low point of your week?

SETTLE IN (ICE BREAKER) 10 min

1. What is the most challenging trial you’ve ever faced?
2. Can you look back and see how God shaped your character through that? How so?

LOOK IN (OBSERVATION) 15 min

1. Charles Spurgeon said, “I have learned to kiss the wave that throws me against the Rock of Ages.” It’s a very biblical perspective. Read James 1:2-4 and Romans 5:1-6. What do James and Paul say we can do in our sufferings or trials?
2. According to Romans, what was the source of Paul’s hope?
3. What is the character transformation that happens to us according to these two passages?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. What was the spiritual experience that resulted in Paul feeling confident that he could boast in Christ?

5. What was Paul’s response to the thorn?
6. What was God’s response to him?
7. What does Paul “delight in” (NIV) according to verse 10?

LOOK UP (UNDERSTANDING) 20 min

1. How does the testing of our faith or suffering produce perseverance?
2. How does “hope not put us to shame” (Romans 5:5)? How does God’s love help us not lose hope?
3. How does perseverance produce spiritual maturity in us (James 1:4)?
4. Why does God sometimes not remove trials or weaknesses (2 Cor.inthians 12:1-10)?
5. How have you seen God’s power shine in or through your weaknesses?

GEAR UP (APPLICATION) 20 min

1. As Paul talked about the thorn in his flesh, we don’t know what his specific thorn was, but many of us can relate. What has been or is a thorn in your life?
2. How could you this week turn your trials into rejoicing? Think practically.

STEP UP (HOMEWORK) 5 min

1. This week be quick to identify a trial or moment of hurt and bring it to God. Ask him, how can you use this for my good? How do you want to shape my character through this? How can I rely on your strength?