



NEW HOPE

SMALL GROUPS

Connect - Engage - Serve

“Adversity: Who is Behind It All?” Week of February 16th, 2020

Connecting -with your group

1. Icebreaker question: What is one characteristic you inherited from your parents that you want to keep and one you wish you could change?
2. Take some time to discuss how your week went. Have you identified two or three non-Christian friends that God has placed in your life that you would like to see come to know Christ? Where did you put them on the continuum? Continue sharing with your group members how these friends are moving along the continuum (forward or backwards) and commit to praying for each other.

Engaging- with the Word of God and others

This week we're starting a new message series on How to Handle Adversity. Today we'll be focusing on where adversity comes from.

1. Read John 9:2.

John 9:2 (GN) "His disciples asked Him, 'Teacher, whose sin caused him to be born blind? Was it his own or his parents' sin?'"

Pastor Russ shared that the disciples' dilemma was based upon a wrong **assumption** they had been taught all their lives; that illness is a sign of God's **judgment**. What are some common wrong assumptions made about God (i.e., you can earn your way to heaven)?

2. In the message this week, we learned that **God** is the engineer of some adversity. How easy or difficult is it for you to accept that adversity can sometimes come from God? How is God working in the adversity you are currently facing in your life?
3. When we suffer because of someone else's sin, it can be extremely **frustrating**. What are some things you have done that has caused adversity in your relationships with others? What are some examples of what someone has done to you to cause adversity? How can you deal with these types of examples in a godly manner?
4. Read 1 Peter 5:8-9.
1 Peter 5:8-9 (GN) "8 Be alert, be on watch! Your enemy, the Devil, roams around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. 9 Be firm in your faith and resist him, because you know that other believers in all the world are going through the same kind of sufferings."
Satan roams around **looking** for ways to bring adversity into your life; he wants us to **suffer**, for suffering often **destroys** one's faith in God. Can you share an example of where adversity destroyed faith in God?
5. Pastor Russ shared, "far more important than the **source** of adversity is our **response** to adversity." How do you tend to respond to adversity? What are some ways you can respond better?

Something More

Read Job 1 and 2.

What questions does Job's story raise about God?

How can you personally relate to Job's story? He faced a lot of adversity but never abandoned his faith in God.

Serving- your group through prayer and care

Take time to share praises and prayer requests. Commit to praying for each other to find ways to influence others towards a relationship with Christ. Pray for God to bring people into your life that you can invite to a relationship with Him (i.e., through an invitation to a church event, a church service, and/or your small group).