

James, brother to Jesus, to a suffering church:

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith...” (James 1:2–6, ESV)

Benefits of suffering:

- Can produce deep _____ . (Galatians 5:22–23 NLT)
- Can produce deep _____ with _____ .
- Can produce deep _____ .
- Choose _____. Joseph is our resilient example.

Joseph had the _____ in his heart.

“Soon I will die,” Joseph told his brothers, “but God will surely come to help you and lead you out of this land of Egypt. He will bring you back to the land he solemnly promised to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.” ²⁵ Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear an oath, and he said, “When God comes to help you and lead you back, you must take my bones with you.” ²⁶ So Joseph died at the age of 110. The Egyptians embalmed him, and his body was placed in a coffin in Egypt.” (Genesis 50:24–26 NLT)

Joseph rose to be resilient because his _____ could see the day WHEN God would _____.

Walking in the will of God, even in suffering, means:

- I am _____ towards Him.
- I am _____/willing to _____ as He _____.

Challenge:

- Is there a sad story you keep telling that God is trying to write a new resilient ending for?
- STOP blaming God for my suffering...START looking to His help.
- Name it: _____. Time to program Jesus as your WayPoint and find your way back to Him.

Check out these FREE online studies from Doug Britton for further study:

Expect Problems

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/expect-problems

Turn to God in the Midst of Problems

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/turn-to-god

Bible Verses to Help Us Overcome Anxiety

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/anxiety-verses

Life Group Homework

For the week of March 1, 2020

MY STORY

- 1) If you could see one movie again for the first time, what would it be and why?
- 2) What was your takeaway from last week’s Life Group?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday’s teaching, what caught your attention?

DIGGING DEEPER

This week we pick up Joseph’s story after he has been in prison for some time. God presents him with the opportunity to interpret dreams for Pharaoh’s servants, and we get a glimpse into his heart that brought about a change of circumstances. The key theme we will be unpacking is suffering and how to become or remain resilient in the midst of it.

- 4) Why do people suffer?

⁹So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph and said to him, “In my dream there was a vine before me, ¹⁰and on the vine there were three branches. As soon as it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and the clusters ripened into grapes. ¹¹Pharaoh’s cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh’s cup and placed the cup in Pharaoh’s hand.” ¹²Then Joseph said to him, “This is its interpretation: the three branches are three days. ¹³In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office, and you shall place Pharaoh’s cup in his hand as formerly, when you were his cupbearer. ¹⁴Only remember me, when it is well with you, and please do me the kindness to mention me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this house. ¹⁵For I was indeed stolen out of the land of the Hebrews, and here also I have done nothing that they should put me into the pit.” ¹⁶When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was favorable, he said to Joseph, “I also had a dream: there were three cake baskets on my head, ¹⁷and in the uppermost basket there were all sorts of baked food for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating it out of the basket on my head.” ¹⁸And Joseph answered and said, “This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days. ¹⁹In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head—from you!—and hang you on a tree. And the birds will eat the flesh from you.” ²⁰On the third day, which was Pharaoh’s birthday, he made a feast for all his servants and lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants. ²¹He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh’s hand. ²²But he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them. ²³Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

Genesis 40:9-23 (ESV)

- 5) How has Joseph suffered in this series so far?
- 6) What further suffering do we see Joseph experiencing in this passage?

7) How do we see Joseph's resilience in this passage?

TAKING IT HOME

At some point and to some level we will all experience suffering. We will now shift our attention to how we can be more resilient when it comes.

2 Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. 3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. 4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

James 1:2-4 (NLT)

- 8) What does it mean to *consider* something? Why does James use this word?
- 9) What are we to consider about our troubles? And what does that mean?
- 10) Where does JOY come from as a Christian?
- 11) How does this passage from James describe resilience?
- 12) Does suffering mean that a person is in or out of the will of God? Explain your reasoning.
- 13) What is the result of our faith being tested?
- 14) What will you do differently to remember to choose JOY in the face of suffering in the future?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

- 1) What is your key takeaway from this study?
- 2) This week think back and thank God for a time when you had the opportunity to experience suffering and how He helped you grow through it.
- 3) How can you posture your heart to be more resilient? What do you need to shift in your thinking or doing?

RESILIENT

From Beginning to End

The Story of Joseph Walking with God

PASTOR CRAIG SWEENEY

March 1, 2020

Resilient: "A person able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions."

The voice of the *Resilient* person who walks with God:

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good."

(Genesis 50:20 NLT)

Thread: Your Father in heaven offers you more than a sad story to tell.

Genesis 40-41:1 NLT

Why _____?

- Knowing the real story _____ me FREE.

Sin is not an affliction God sent on us...it is the result of me opening doors to things I was never meant to see or experience.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."

(Romans 6:23 NLT)

"We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. 23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. 24 Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. 25 For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood."

(Romans 3:22-25 NLT)

- Knowing the real _____ sets me FREE to see _____ my _____ comes from.

Insights about Suffering:

Jesus said, "I must suffer many terrible things and be rejected." (from Mark 8:31)
The Suffering Servant

Early Church

"The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus. 42 And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: "Jesus is the Messiah."

(Acts 5:41-42 NLT)

"If you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you." (1 Peter 4:19 NLT)