

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

ARE YOU READY? STAY READY SO YOU WON'T HAVE TO GET READY

Scripture: James 1:2, Matt 7:24-27

Pastor Tommy Mosley, 23 Aug 2015

In our lives today, there is an attitude and even an encouragement to avoid pain at any cost. The problem lies in the fact that if we avoid pain or difficulty, we don't experience the rewards of perseverance. God uses trials in our lives to grow things into us or grow things out of us, if we allow Him the opportunity. Our ATTITUDE gets us ready. Sometimes we can't see it as an opportunity. We can take steps to prepare our attitudes. One of the ways Pastor Tommy shared about getting ready was being aware of what we expose ourselves to on television and social media

In light of the thousands of stories that take place each day, what method does the media use to determine what is reported? Is the product information, or uncertainty?

Isaiah 26:3

You will keep in perfect peace

all who trust in you,

all whose thoughts are fixed on you!

When a trial or storm hits, we have only seconds to respond.. **We need to have a plan!**

The goal is to have an attitude of joy because we know God is at work in our lives and the result of the trials is increased strength, faith, and love.

MEMORY VERSES

Matt 7:24 (NLT) "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock."

DISCUSSION STARTERS

1. Pastor Tommy was told by a Navy SEAL instructor "We are capable of doing 20 times more than we think we can do." Describe a situation where you accomplished way much more than you initially thought you were capable of doing.



2. Think about the last time you faced an unexpected trial. A flat tire, an injury or sickness, someone who came to you with an emergency, a financial setback etc.. What was your initial reaction?

FOLLOW-UP QUESTION: Why is it so hard. When we first face a new trial, to "consider it an opportunity for great Joy" as James tells us in James 1:2?

3. Sharing. What activity that is not particularly productive, (i.e., TV, internet surfing, social media, listening to the news etc) in your daily life do you spend more time doing than reading the Bible?

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. In **Genesis Ch 1**, verse 37, it says, "Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!" Pastor Tommy noted that life is good ...but not necessarily easy. Why is it that we do not hear *that* message very much in the world today - especially in the media?

2. **READ Matt 6:25** How often do we worry about our everyday life? What would it be like to take ALL the time that is spent worrying and read from the Bible instead?

3. **READ Matt 7:24-27** It has been said, "We are either in a trial, coming out of one or going into one". (Pastor Mike McIntosh). What is the rock we can build on to prepare for our next trial? (HINT: The 'rock' is not Jesus Himself, but _____ hears the sayings of Jesus and _____ them).

What can we do to change our ATTITUDE and be more joyous for the next trial?

4. For this question, suggest breaking into groups of 2 or 3.

READ James 1:2

Meditate for a few moments on these 2 questions:

* What challenges are there in your life that you don't like?

* How can I change my attitude to see it as an opportunity to make it joyous?

SHARE your answers within the smaller group. If someone is stuck and is having difficulty with the second question, offer encouragement to them.



PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

1. What are some of the activities we can do to put positive, productive thoughts and ideas into our heads?
2. The only time Jesus cursed was seeing the unfruitful fig tree **Matt 21:18-19**. What one thing could you eliminate (unfruitful activity) that would change you for the better?

TAKE IT HOME!

- * Begin each day asking our Lord: "God, how are you going to strengthen me today?"
- * Go home & love your family first. Spend more time with a loved one, or call an out of town relative. Then be a good employee or a good friend.

