

APPLICATION

- How do the truths you've learned change your perspective on suffering? How can you apply these truths in your current situation?
- Do you believe that God's purpose is always good and will prevail? What personal plans, purposes, or desires do you need to surrender to God?
- To whom can you share about God's greatness and sovereignty? Who can you encourage with these truths this week?

PRAYER

- Pray for faith and strength as you weather the storms you are currently facing. Pray that God will make you steadfast.
- Believe God to reveal more of Himself to you as you grow in your relationship with Him. Ask God for a deeper understanding of who He is, that He would open your eyes to all He is doing in your life.
- Pray that others will also know and trust God more through your life and testimony.



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WEEK 3



Restoration After Suffering

NOTES

WARM-UP

- What was the most valuable or expensive item you ever broke? What happened?
- How were you disciplined as a child?
- As a child did you ever fight with a classmate or close friend? How were you able to patch up your relationship?

WORD

Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. **JAMES 5:11**

The Apostle James commended Job's steadfastness in enduring suffering. God eventually restored what was lost and stolen from Job, but what was more notable was Job's response during his time of suffering. How can we learn to be steadfast in trials? Here are three truths that can help you be strong and steadfast in trying times.

1 God's purposes will prevail.

"I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted." **JOB 42:2**

We must understand that God is not the source of our suffering. He may allow suffering to happen, but His purposes will prevail above all. No matter what the situation, no one can ever say that His plans and purposes are wrong, because they are always enduring and worth trusting (Proverbs 19:21). How have you witnessed God's purposes prevail in your own life?

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2 God's ways are higher than ours.

"Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge? Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know."

JOB 42:3

Job recognized that God's knowledge was far too great for him to grasp. Isaiah 55:8 also states that God's thoughts and ways are not like ours. We do not know or understand, but God does. We may not have ultimate control over our lives, but God does. Knowing that God's ways are higher than ours, how does this truth make a difference in your life?

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3 God is greater than we perceive.

⁵"I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; ⁶therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes." **JOB 42:5,6**

Job saw how small he was after encountering God's glory and presence. The truth is, God is bigger and more vast than anything we can ever comprehend. Our current understanding of God is and will always be too small compared to who He is in reality. When we pursue God in the midst of our suffering, we encounter the greatness of God and see Him for who He is. Share one thing you learned about God during a trying time.

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