

JUNE 21, 2020

BEING THE SWITCH IN TRIALS

Romans 8:28-29, 1 Samuel 27:1-8, 30:1-6, Isaiah 30:18-21



The Big Idea: Trials last only so long as it is necessary for God to accomplish His purpose in us. It's a matter of how you view things. For some, surprisingly, COVID-19 is not a trial! They've moved through this, adjusted their lives, learned a lot and become closer to God than ever. Now they are thriving.

- 1. God's ultimate design is to conform you to the likeness of Jesus - 28** *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. – Romans 8:28-29*
- 2. God is always good AND our trials only last as long as it is necessary for God to accomplish His purpose in us.**
- 3. David has TRIALS** – David had been anointed King of Israel by Samuel (1 Samuel 15:11-13) while the present king, Saul, was still alive – that was not good. He didn't have it easy. In addition to waiting years for God to give him the throne, King Saul wanted to kill him and anyone who helped him (1 Samuel 18-26). You can't blame David for despairing because everything was going wrong. He was unfairly targeted by King Saul, driven from his homeland, rejected by his new neighbors, constantly under threat of attack, his family was taken captive, and his people were turning on him. Yet, his response was this – *"David strengthened himself in the LORD his God,"* (1 Samuel 30:6).
- 4. God has put a limit on all adversity – 31** *For you are not cast off by the Lord forever. 32 Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. – Lamentations 3:31-32*
- 5. Adversity is God's tool for building godly character – 3** *Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. – Romans 5:3-4*
- 6. Adversity usually comes in areas where we feel the most confident - 7** *To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. – 2 Corinthians 12:7-9*
- 7. And Again - God's ultimate design is to conform you to the likeness of Jesus - 29** *For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. – Romans 8:28-29*

Trials are confusing and never easy. But God uses them to develop important character traits in your life, and you can profit from your trouble if you choose to trust Him. David did, and he passed the tests of faith (1 Samuel 31:6, 2 Samuel 2:4, 2 Samuel 5:1-5). God taught David through affliction and He is teaching you as well. If you're walking with God and want to be used by Him, you will go through difficult times in your life. Why does it have to be so painful? Unfortunately, there are no simple answers. God's discipline and instruction are unique to each individual. God must get your attention, teach you to only turn to Him, and train you to minister to others who have profound hurts (2 Corinthians 1:3-4) and that usually requires touching an area deep within your soul. However, you can know for sure that He's working on something immensely important in and through you. God wouldn't allow you to suffer without a significant reason or permit your trouble to continue a minute more than necessary. Therefore, don't run from your problems. **Face them with faith in God, knowing He is with you.**

LifeGroup Worksheet

JUNE 21, 2020

This sheet is to be completed DURING your LifeGroup session

Scripture Reference – **Romans 8:28-29, 1 Samuel 27:1-8, 30:1-6, Isaiah 30:18-21**

1. Reflect- *How has God been working in your life? How has He provided, comforted, answered, reconciled or guided you? Be open to sharing both your successes and struggles.*

2. Read- *Romans 8:28-29, 1 Samuel 27:1-8, 30:1-6, Isaiah 30:18-21, both with your group and alone.*

3. Engage and Explore- *What do you think God was communicating to his people when this was first written? Try to answer at least one questions below.*

- a. How do you explain why bad things happen to nice people?
- b. What causes people to lose their faith in God?
- c. Read 1 Samuel 30:1-6. What is surprising about David in verse 6. What is God telling you in this?
- d. Read Isaiah 30:18-21. How does this impact you in where you are in your life? What does it take to listen to God as in verse 21? Share your experience and ideas.
- e. Read Romans 8:28-29. Trials are confusing and never easy. But God uses them to develop important character traits in your life and you can profit from your troubles if you trust Him. How is this challenging to you? Do you think God should make our lives easier than they are? Why or why not?

4. Connect- *how this passage applies to you and your relationship to Jesus and others. How is the Holy Spirit speaking to you through this passage? Try to answer at least one question.*

- a. If you're walking with God and want to be used by Him, you will go through difficult times in your life. Think about a difficult time where you experienced a supernatural power that could only be from God. How did God work in your situation? What did God do to work things out?
- b. Why does life have to be so painful?
- c. How has adversity developed your character? You can know for sure that God is doing something immensely important in and through you. God would never allow you to suffer without a significant reason or permit your trouble to continue a minute more than necessary.
- d. What might it mean for you that God's ultimate design is to conform you to the likeness of Jesus (Romans 8:29)? How can that help you to not run from your problems and face them?
- e. How can you commit your difficult circumstances to God this week?
- f. How can you show trust in God to work out your circumstances for good?

5. Silent Meditation- *You may want to move away from the group to a quiet spot. Silently read the scripture several more times. Write down the words/passage you want to focus on this week and how you plan to apply God's truth to your life.*

6. Share- *Key insights with your group from question #5.*

7. Close in Prayer- *Try using different prayer models found in the LifeGroup Leader Handbook.*