

Passing the Prison Test

Robert Morris

Review

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Key Scriptures: Genesis 39:13–23; John 16:33

Discuss

1. Read Romans 5:3–5. How do tribulations, perseverance, character, and hope work together? Do you see the progression of these in your life?
2. Why do you think God uses tribulation in our lives to produce perseverance?
3. Can you think of a time when God developed perseverance in your life? What was the tribulation you went through and how did God use it to build your perseverance?
4. Read James 1:2–3. How has God used trials in your life to produce patience? What is the difference between patience and perseverance?
5. What would happen to us if we reached our dream or destiny without first building character?
6. Read Proverbs 13:12. How does putting our hope in the wrong things make our hearts sick? Why is it important for us to put our hope in God rather than our circumstances?
7. Can you think of a divine appointment God created in your life? Share that experience with the group.
8. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?

Takeaway

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Tribulation produces perseverance.
- Perseverance produces character.
- Character produces hope.
- Hope produces divine appointments.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, please help us have the right perspective on the trials in our lives. Help us count it all joy when You are developing patience and perseverance in us. Thank You for growing and developing our character so we will be ready for the things You have planned for our futures. We put our hope and trust in You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Leader Tip

During the first few weeks of your group, make sure to have name tags ready for people to wear. Put out sharpies with the name tags as people are coming in. As people get to know each other's names, it will help the group feel more like family.

Group Dynamics Idea

If the group is new, have everyone introduce themselves at your first meeting. If it's an existing group with one new visitor, consider introducing them yourself so they don't feel intimidated. Meet them before the discussion starts to get their name and learn a little about them so you can introduce them to the group. For example, "This is Ben, who's a guest of Susan. He just started going to Gateway. Ben, we're glad you're here!" Don't put visitors on the spot but allow them to set their own pace of involvement.