



CONNECTION QUESTION

Reflect on a time when maintaining your integrity had an unexpectedly high price. How did you respond? Were you discouraged by the result or encouraged because you know you did the right thing?

SERMON REVIEW

This week we learned that life will does not always go according to plan. Sometimes life falls apart and we find ourselves in a mess not of our own choosing. In those times, even when God feels distant, just like Joseph, God is with us. Trials don't necessarily mean God is fighting against us. In James 1, we learn trials are part of God's plan for our life to bring us to maturity.

In addition, we also learned choices we to make when life doesn't go according to plan. We need to:

1. Refuse to become bitter.
2. Make the best of a tough situation.
3. Commit to doing more than asked and better than expected.
4. Continue to do the right thing even when it produces the wrong results.

In what ways is your life not going according to plan? How does this message help you?

Of the four practical steps, which one is most important for you to focus on this week?

BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE

This week we learned different ways to respond to trials and temptations. Sometimes, when life is hard, we just need to



vent. We need to talk it out with someone that understands. According to the Bible, who is the best person to vent our frustrations?

> *Read Hebrews 2:18; 4:15-16*

Temptation is hard to beat. What do these verses say are essential tools in our arsenal to beat the temptations of daily life? How is God calling you to sharpen these weapons this week?

> *Psalm 119:11; Luke 4:1-13; Matthew 26:41.*

When life doesn't go according to plan, it becomes increasingly difficult to do the right thing. The verses below reveal a different way of looking at life. After reading each verse, jot dow how it differs from the way the world lives and thinks.

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| • <i>James 5:16</i> | • <i>Isaiah 32:17</i> |
| • <i>Psalm 112:6</i> | • <i>Isaiah 51:7</i> |
| • <i>Psalm 34:15</i> | |

TAKE IT HOME

Looking back on this week's study, what is the most important thing to remember? What is the most important action to take?